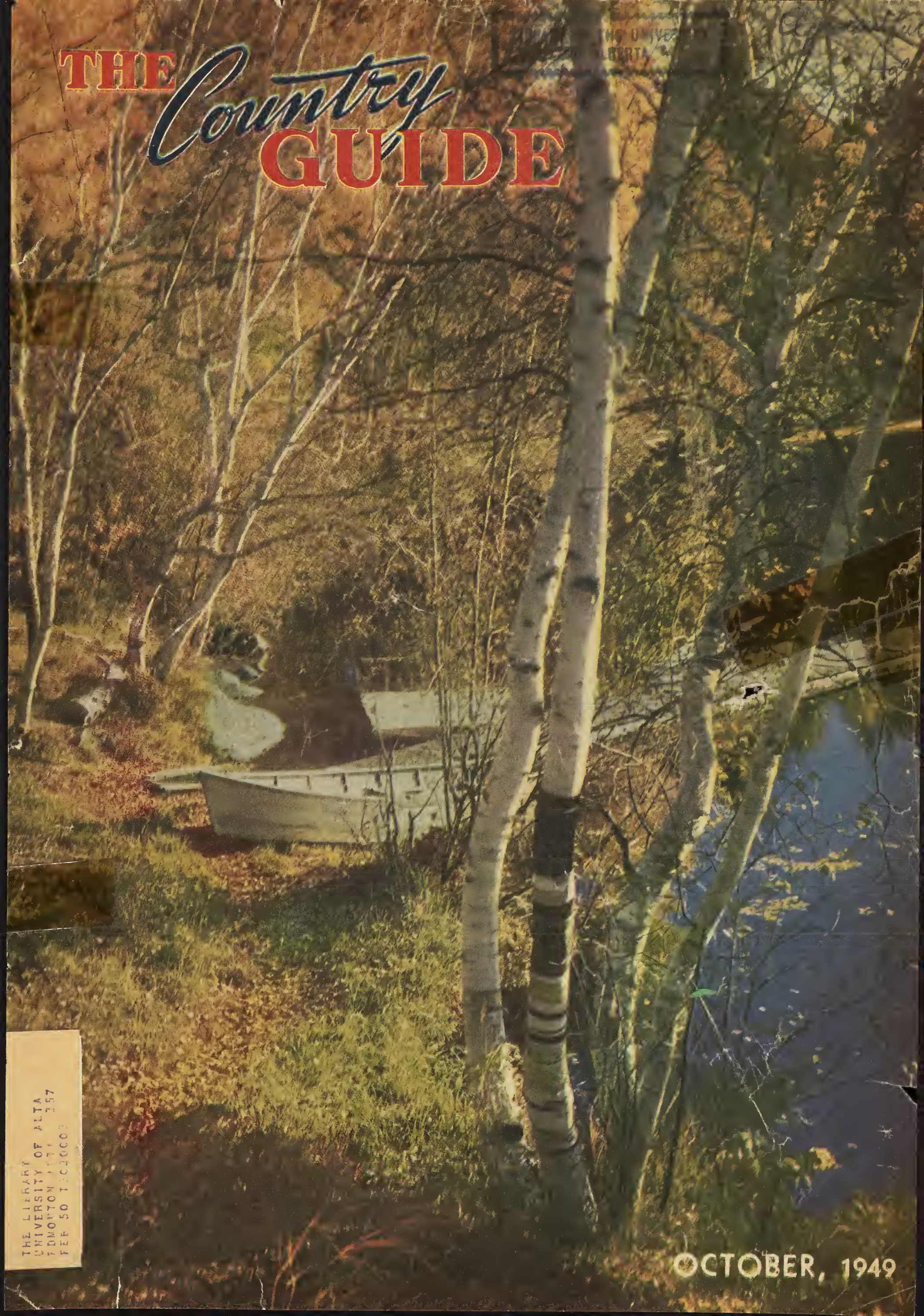
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THE Country GUIDE

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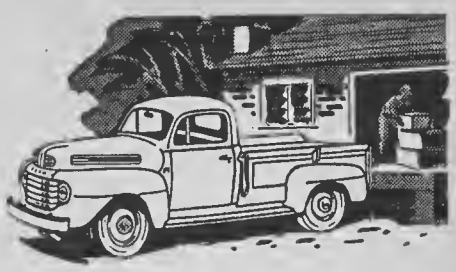
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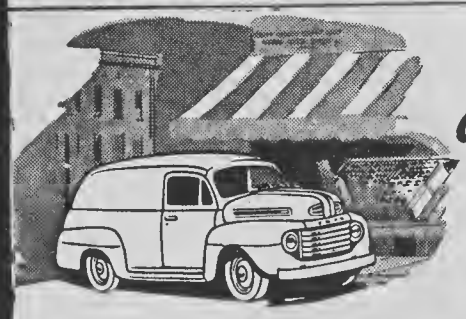
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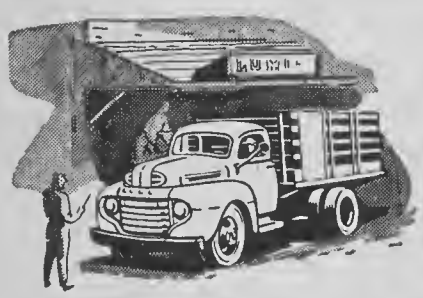




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Under The Peace Tower



THE story of John R. Garland and his chairs probably interested more people than any other feature during the opening of Canada's 21st parliament. With a lopsided government majority, everything was as dull as ditchwater on Parliament Hill. Even the fillip that the most welcome Newfoundlanders could give could hardly hold Page 1, let alone big headlines. But Garland's chairs were top news for weeks.

To begin with, Mr. Garland, a member of parliament reputedly weighing more than 500 pounds, was elected for the federal riding of Nipissing. Long before he got here, enterprising newspapermen were speculating how Garland would get his King-size frame into an ordinary chair. During the dog days, Garland was top news.

Then the papers came out baldly and boldly and said that Public Works, who look after such things, was building six oversize chairs. Three were for Mr. Garland, and three for Camilien Houde, Mayor of Montreal, and M.P. for Papineau. There would be one chair for the Commons, one for his room, and one for the parliamentary restaurant, in the case of both of these generously endowed gentlemen. So ran the story. This was quickly denied in part. There would be no such trio of chairs for Mayor Houde, Public Works insisted. But no real denial was issued that the chairs were not being made, somewhere, for Garland. The dispute was on the numbers; would there be three, would there be two, or would there be just one, for Mr. Garland.

The newspapers then wanted to get pictures of the chair, which was alleged to be ready for occupancy. Now it so happens that to enter the House of Commons and take a picture, special permission must be given for each and every photographer each and every time. The logical place to get this permission is from the Clerk of the House of Commons, who may sometimes delegate his duties to the Sergeant-at-Arms, Col. W. J. Franklin. So the fun started. The paper that wanted Garland's chair photographed could not find Col. Franklin. Then the new Clerk of the Commons, Leon Raymond, after having granted permission, was overruled by Dr. Gaspard Fauteux, who was Mr. Speaker.

HERE it must be pointed out that Dr. Fauteux was what in American parlance would be called a Lame Duck Speaker. That is to say, he was already out of office, on paper, but he could not really vacate the job because the new Speaker, Ross Macdonald of Brantford, could not legally be made Speaker 'till parliament met. That was still several days ahead yet. So Lame Duck or not, Dr. Fauteux had the authority.

Dr. Fauteux, rightly or wrongly, took umbrage at this idea of a photo of the Garland chair. He went farther. He denied it existed.

"Where is this chair?" he asked. "I am Speaker of the House of Commons. I have never seen this chair. I have no knowledge of it."

Now even though he was the Lame Duck Speaker, you could not precisely tell him that he was wrong. For here seems to be the story. I said he was Lame Duck Speaker, and therefore losing his authority fast. The truth was, that Public Works was holding out on the good doctor. For somewhere way down in the bowels of the Commons, there sure enough was Garland's chair.

But when the Speaker said there was no such chair, one could not precisely tell him that he didn't know what he was talking about. However, one paper came out and stated that the chair Mr. Speaker insisted did not exist was under close guard, not so many feet away from Mr. Speaker. It is probable that Dr. Fauteux had by then found out about the Garland chair, and having gone way out on a limb, the only thing he could do was to tip a wink to somebody to conceal the chair, and he'd eke out his last hours as Mr. Speaker letting on there was no such piece of furniture.

I WAS curious to see how the government, by this time a trifle red-faced over the whole business, would handle the matter of the chair. I went down to the House of Commons on the eve of parliament, and found Mr. Garland's desk at the far southwest corner, in the back bench of the Liberals. There was no chair there. But I have been around the Commons long enough to know that appearances are sometimes deceptive. I pushed behind the heavy drapes, and sure enough, there was a big chair.

This chair was not the special Public Works chair, however. It was just an over-size chair that happened to be around the Commons. There is almost anything to be found around this parliament building including the carved head of Hon. Bob Rogers. So somebody had dug up this big chair.

Today, down in the catacombs of the Commons some place, is Garland's chair. Will he refuse to use the chair which officially does not exist, or will he quietly ease into it some day, when all the hubbub is over? Nobody knows, and by now, nobody cares. So passes another great parliamentary crisis.





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DEVALUATION *and the* FARMER

Cartoon by LOW



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Devaluation of the British pound and the Canadian dollar will, for the time being, mean higher prices for some farm products

by
J. DOUGLAS WAHN
and
RALPH HEDLIN

WESTERN farmers have always been conscious of their dependence on world markets. They have recognized, since pioneer days, that developments and legislation in distant lands can have a sharp and immediate effect on their welfare. Little wonder then that when news of the Washington Conference and devaluation of British and Canadian currencies came to their ears they were heard to ask: "How will this affect us?"

Any answer to this question presupposes some understanding of international monetary problems. A shortage of money with which to buy American and Canadian goods and services has faced the British people since before World War II. Because Canada has for a long time sold more to Britain than she bought, while on the other hand, she bought more from the United States than she sold, Canadians also were faced with a shortage of American dollars. During the war lend-lease, mutual aid and dollar loans all combined to ease the situation. Since the war Marshall Plan aid has provided Britain and other dollar-scarce countries with funds with which to make purchases on this continent. However, the Marshall Plan was never intended to provide more than a temporary easing of the situation. Sooner or later a more permanent solution to the dollar problem had to be found.

Britain and other dollar-scarce countries had done their best to produce more to sell in dollar markets. In spite of their best efforts they were unable to sell as much to dollar countries as they bought from them. In an attempt to solve the problem, representatives of Britain and Canada were invited to Washington to discuss ways and means of alleviating the dollar shortage.

THE representatives who met in Washington last month attempted to resolve difficulties that were by no means new. Prior to World War I, Canada, the United States, Britain and other countries carried on trade with each other, with reasonable freedom. By means of extensive borrowing and credits largely in Britain, Canada was able to buy more from the United States than she sold to her. At the same time she sold more to Britain than she bought. At that time the currencies of the chief trading nations were convertible into gold. If one country bought more from another than she sold to her, the difference could be made up by a payment in gold. In any event Britain's currency was generally in great demand, because there was a substantial demand for British goods, and the Americans were eager to exchange their dollars for British pounds.

With the advent of World War I Britain found herself in the position of buying more from the United States than she had formerly purchased. Moreover, the United States, with its great growth of industry, was able to supplant Britain in many of the world's markets after the war. The British, who had used their overseas investments to buy war materials, found it harder and harder to sell enough in American dollar markets, to balance their purchases. The Americans, on the other hand, did not make things any easier. They resisted the entry of imports from other countries by passing high tariff laws in the early 1920's and again in 1930.

World War II and its aftermath merely served to make the problem more acute. Canada suffered because we found it difficult to convert pounds we earned from our sales to Britain, into American dollars, with which to buy goods from the United States.

The Washington Conference opened in an atmosphere of extreme goodwill. The participants were aided by a friendship of long standing, between the three countries taking part. Also, some uncertainty about Russia's future plans tended to tone down any differences that might otherwise have existed. Canada played her traditional role of mediator and, apart from bringing up problems of her own and studying those of the other countries, she helped to maintain friendly understanding between Britain and the United States. One of Canada's objectives was to secure the release of ECA dollars for the purchase of Canadian wheat.

The United States made large and significant concessions. The American representatives came out strongly for a return to multilateral trade. They recognized that such an objective might take some time to achieve, but in order to bring it about they were willing to step up their dollar investments abroad and to import more goods by easing administrative red tape, and by some lowering of tariff barriers. They were prepared to stockpile more strategic materials from the Commonwealth and other sterling areas. They agreed to make $175 million of ECA funds available for the purchase of Canadian wheat. The immediate reaction of most observers was that the United States had made all the concessions.

On Sir Stafford Cripps' return to Britain he announced that the pound sterling was to be devalued, a decision that had been made prior to Cripps' departure for Washington. With further news that other nations were following suit and, later, that the Canadian dollar was to be devalued 10 per cent, it was recognized that all nations were making a real effort to achieve a more freely trading world.

THE devaluation of the British pound and the Canadian dollar, relative to the American dollar, has immediate implications for western Canadian farmers. The devaluation of the pound will mean that imports from the United Kingdom will be cheaper in price. We buy a very small proportion of our farm machinery and production goods from Britain, so it will not reduce farmers' costs of production significantly. It will likely reduce the price of items such as clothing, cars and goods that we do buy from Britain—including smaller farm trucks.

The devaluation of the Canadian dollar, on the other hand, will have much more far-reaching effects on the western Canadian farm producer. It will tend to bring the price of Canadian farm products to a level which compares more favorably with the prices received by American farmers in the United States.

Wheat provides a good example. Canadian wheat is marketed through the Wheat Board in four main ways. The first of these is under the British contract, in which case No. 1 Northern wheat is sold at $2.05, basis Fort William. The second is selling on the domestic market, at the same price as above. The remaining wheat is sold either under the International Wheat Agreement at a maximum price of $1.80, or on the world market, as Class II wheat, at competitive prices. Following devaluation, the maximum price under the International Wheat Agreement became $1.98, a rise of 18 cents. On September 20, a few days after devaluation, the price of Class II wheat rose from $2.12 to $2.30 and has risen further since. There will be no change in the price of wheat under the British contract, as the price of $2.05 is in Canadian funds. While the short-term price prospects for Canadian wheat are promising, it must not be forgotten that the devaluation of the British pound relative to the Canadian dollar means that Canadian dollars will become more expensive for the British to buy. Accordingly we might expect that the British could advantageously increase purchases of wheat from countries willing to accept sterling, when the world supply situation improves. In the long run this could have a depressing effect on prices for western Canadian wheat.

(*Turn to page* 86)



Illustrated by Clarence Tillenius

Gaunt and towering, uncouth as some creature from another world, Old Lop-horn's towering form came breasting through the thickets . . .

THE MAD MONTH

by **PAUL ANNIXTER**

JESSE BALLARD'S long corduroy-clad legs were carrying him down country at a great pace. Early that morning something had gone wrong with the machinery in the big lumber mill on the Clearwater and the great saw had come to a sudden rumbling stop. The mill foreman had hardly announced that the sawyer crew would have a three-day layoff while repairs were made, before Jesse took off for yonder with his town pants and a clean shirt in a rucksack.

It happened to be a Friday and Jesse was high-fire over the prospect of spending a full week-end with Judy Mellott. Judy, the pretty sorrel-headed daughter of Jim Mellott, the Outlet storekeeper, who had all but promised Jesse that the following spring she might come to live with him in the old Ballard cabin at the bend of the river.

It was eight miles home from the mill, but that was only a bit of a jaunt for a woodsman like Jesse. He was making a beeline across country for the Mellott cabin, eager to see the glad surprise on Judy's face when he kissed her and told her of his surprise holiday. More than likely there'd be a Saturday night dance in town and they would go. Jesse leapt lightly over the down-logs; sometimes he loped for a stretch, Indian fashion. He was twenty-three, long and rangy, with a shock of black hair and the loose-coupled wiggle of the very tall man in his middle, when he walked. These things had not been without their attractions to the marriageable young females of the region, who all seemed bent on catching such a man for themselves, so they could put him to work grubbing brush, and building fancy cabins with split-log floors. For two years, however, Jesse had kept footloose and fancy-free, scrupulously avoiding everything in calico. But a man had to buy vittles and the third time Jesse made conversation with Judy Mellott over her father's store counter he was a gone gander.

FROM long hunting habit Jesse moved warily through the woods, and he was reading sign as he went. It was deep fall and the hardwoods were aflame with frost-fires. A still, bitter-sweet melancholy lay over the pine woods, but beneath that stillness was a tocsin of fierce unrest, for this was the Mad Month for most of the forest. The rutting time of the antlered tribes; migration time of wildfowl; time when a single old man partridge will defy deer, bear and even moose in the rashness of the courting fever. One with the woods and creatures, some of this excitement was burning in Jesse Ballard's blood today.

When Jesse Ballard and Judy Mellott had their lovers' quarrel, little did they realize the dramatic events in the woods which were to dwarf its significance

Twice he paused to study big splayed tracks in the soft mold. Old Lop-horn, the Clearwater moose had passed that way but a few hours before. Lop-horn was known to every man in the region. He was an anachronism, apparently the last of his kind left in that section of the Brunswick forests; so named for the peculiar palmation of his left antler, which dropped slightly downward instead of branching up as a normal antler should. A big bull of mature years, he was so woods-wise and wary that he survived season after season, in spite of the efforts of numerous hunters to bring him low. But there were not a few woodsmen in the district who were proud of the tall bull and saw in his exceptional size and prowess a promise for other and larger moose in those parts and better hunting for years to come. Some of these, including Jesse himself, had refrained from putting a ball into Lop-horn when he had come in fair range of their rifles.

It was not yet mid-day when Jesse approached the Mellott cabin. He gave three loud, impetuous knocks and waited. Finally he opened the door, for all latch-strings were left out in the Clearwater country. The cabin was deserted. Judy hadn't been there for hours, at least since early morning, for the stove was cold. Gloomily Jesse went outside and sat on the log step, wondering. Could be she was working down at the store. Then Mark Laws, a neighbor, sauntered by on the ridge above.

"Howdy, Jesse. Home for a spell?" he called.

"Just a couple of days," Jesse explained.

"If it's Judy you're looking for, reckon you'll find her over to Ansell Gregg's," Laws chuckled.

Jesse got up as if stung. He went into the cabin quickly. Laws was saying something else but he closed the door on it. He'd heard enough. Ansell Gregg was the fellow Judy had been sort of sweet on a year or so ago. Mark Laws knew it, so did everyone, but no one was going to josh about it at his expense.

JESSE waited in the kitchen till Mark Laws was out of sight. So Judy had to go running back to Ansell Gregg as soon as he was out of sight, did she? A furious rage gripped and shook Jesse Ballard. The dark blue vein on his forehead that was its flag and signal had begun to twitch and swell. A quick-fire temper was Jesse's one great weakness.

Built around a core of great strength and passion, his love was fierce, jealous and all-absorbing. For months he had thought about little else but Judy and their coming marriage. But Judy, apparently, could think of plenty of other things, including Ansell Gregg. Jesse stood breathing hard, struggling to master the flare of his anger, which was doubled by the frustration of the happy surprise he'd planned. His first hot impulse was to stride over to Gregg's cabin and face the pair of them. Then pride had its way with him. He would light out big and pronto for home, and Judy could find out later he'd been there and be sorry if she'd a mind to.

Just as he was leaving Judy herself came hurrying along a woods trail—the trail that led toward Gregg's cabin.

"Jesse!" she cried incredulously and came running toward him. "Whatever's the matter—has the mill shut down?"

"Saw crew's laid off two-three days, so I came home," Jesse said. "Guess it's a pretty big surprise to some people."

He had merely stopped in his tracks. He stood with arms hanging at his sides looking down at her, and the expected kiss went uncollected. Judy recoiled not only from his words, but his manner, which her own began to reflect.

"Well, for heaven sakes, come in," she rallied with an effort. "You're just in time for a noon-bite. Roast partridge, Jesse. It won't take me a jiffy to fix it."

(*Turn to page* 80)

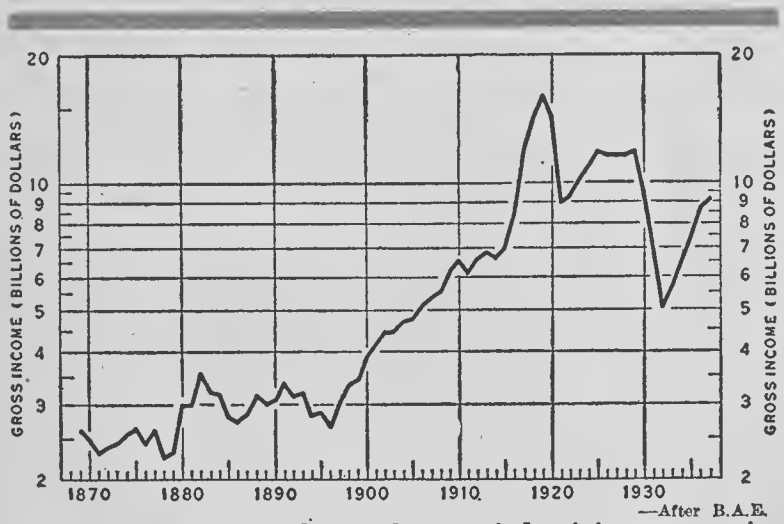
Why Uncle Sam Helps The Farmer

Story of the agricultural revolution in the United States and why a generous farm policy came about

by H. S. FRY

THERE is today an intimate relationship between agriculture and politics and government. This is true on both national and international levels. Many persons consider the present relationship to be a sort of "shotgun" marriage and do not like it. Opinion is by no means unanimous, but certainly a large section of the farm community regards the existing situation as necessary under present circumstances.

Because this relationship is comparatively new and lacks unanimous support, it becomes our responsibility to understand it as best we can. To reach such an understanding we can do no better than to study what is called the agricultural revolution in the United States. This revolution has been under way for several decades, but is now blossoming out into discussions of farm policy more advanced than any ever before considered by a great agricultural country. This study, like the study of all revolutions, will take us back a long time. We should try, however, to appreciate and fully understand the slow build-up of dissatisfactions and injustices now culminating in a much better understanding, on the part of society, of the importance of the soil and its people. It is important to remember, too, that Americans have always loved their land, its great fertility, extent, and self-sufficiency. The crimes they have committed against it have been largely born of thoughtlessness.



—After B.A.E.

Note on the black line, the two long periods of farm unrest in the U.S., first, the 30 years after the Civil War, and second, the long period between World Wars I and II.

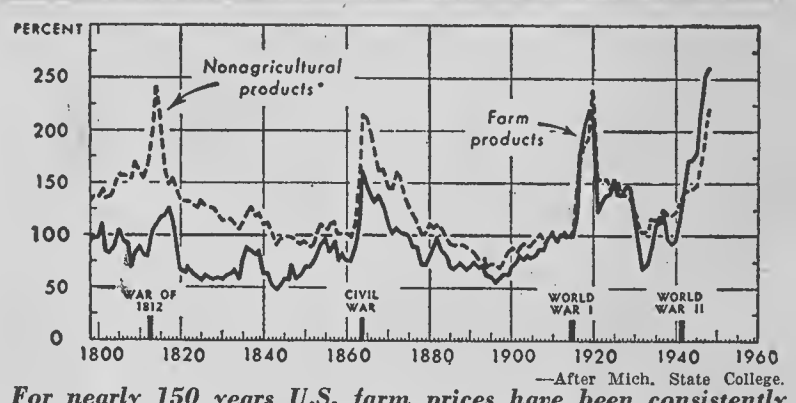
WHEN the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth in 1620, they came mostly from a primitive agricultural country, where the land was no more than 25 per cent cultivated. Agriculture in the England of James I scarcely fitted them for an understanding of the new crops and the different farming methods which they were to adopt in the Indian country. Equipped principally with hoes, sickles and flails, and knowing nothing of the native plants which were eventually to provide about four-sevenths of a $30 billion farm income, they were never certain of enough to eat at first. They had yet to discover the usefulness of corn, tobacco, cotton, potatoes, sweet potatoes, peanuts, tomatoes, melons, squash, many kinds of fruits, and other plants. They had to realize also, the need for, and gradually to introduce from Europe, all of the small grains, all of our major forage crops, and all of our domestic livestock, except the turkey and the dog. A few cattle were available in some of the other New England colonies, but the settlement at Plymouth was without cattle for three years and possessed no plow for twelve years.

Indeed, for 170 years life in these colonies was based on a self-sufficient life on the land. As late as 1790, settlement had only progressed westward a distance of 255 miles; and more than 90 per cent of the total population was distinctly rural. Even in that day, however, farmers were critical of their urban neighbors and staged two rebellions, one against the methods of their Boston creditors, and another against a tax on grain used for whiskey.

After 1790 progress was more rapid. The new republic was both lusty and ambitious. During the succeeding 50 years the population grew from 3.9 million to more than 23 million; and in the same period the physical area increased, by purchases and annexations, from 867 thousand square miles to 2.9 million square miles. By 1800, the cotton gin and the first cast-iron plow had appeared. Settlement had crossed the Appalachians, and 30 years later had reached the Mississippi River. By 1860, also, two frontiers had been established, the second moving eastward from the Pacific after 1849, when gold was discovered in California. In fact, the country was so generous in its abundance and resources that a more or less primitive frontier always existed in the United States from 1620 until 1890. To this fact alone, calling as it did for a hardy, aggressive and dynamic type of people, is to be attributed much of the aggressive development and progress of the United States, even up to the present time.

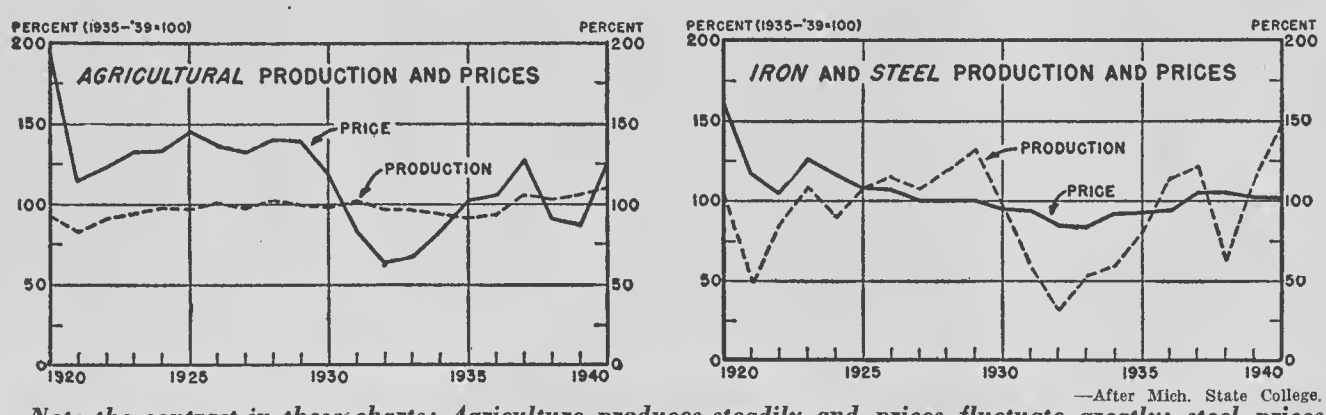
During the first 30 years of the nineteenth century, cotton had become established as the chief crop of the South. The increasing urban population was also reflected in the enactment of the first two protective tariff laws. The first iron plow with interchangeable parts was developed; and New York established the first State Board of Agriculture. Agriculture still claimed about 83 per cent of all gainfully employed persons, but manufacturing had already begun the transfer of industry from farm and home, to shop and factory. Farms thus tended to become less self-sufficient and to require more cash. Wheat growing was moving westward, and in 1830 it required 50-60 hours of man labor to produce an acre of wheat (20 bushels). New England farmers turned from wheat to dairying and truck crops.

In 1831, the first practicable railroad steam engine appeared, and by 1860 as much as 30,000 miles of railroad had been laid, most of it in the fifties. Along with the building of railroads in the early thirties, a seven-year land speculation boom occurred, which ended with the panic of 1837. Protective tariffs had brought rising costs to the purchasers of manufactured goods and were opposed by the South, which was not an industrial area. During the forties and fifties, the South was in the saddle politically and tariffs were brought down to the lowest point since 1815. During this period of expansion, also, the first steel plow, the McCormick reaper, a practical threshing machine and the grain drill appeared. Likewise, a mowing machine had been patented and steam tractors tried unsuccessfully. The development of the steel plow to cut the rough prairie sod, and higher grain prices after 1845, again induced settlement westward from the edge of prairie in Illinois and Indiana, where it had been halted for a time.



—After Mich. State College.

For nearly 150 years U.S. farm prices have been consistently below the prices of non-farm products, except during three of the four war periods. Farmers regularly compete more freely with each other, than does urban industry.



—After Mich. State College.

Note the contrast in these charts: Agriculture produces steadily and prices fluctuate greatly; steel prices hold fairly steady, but production is adjusted to demand.

BY 1860, the population had grown to 31 million and was to double in the next 30 years. Almost half of the wheat in the country was produced in the Old North West—Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. Also developing westward, but a little south of the wheat belt, was the corn belt, which had moved into Iowa, Eastern Kansas and Nebraska. An acre of corn (40 bushels) could be produced with about 30 hours of man labor, with a walking plow, harrow and hand planting. U.S. farm exports had reached $229.3 million or 82.4 per cent of all exports. The first agricultural college had been opened in Michigan three years before.

The sixties were crowded with events of great significance to agriculture; chief among them was the Civil War (1861-65). Notwithstanding the growth of city population and (*Turn to page* 61)

AUCTIONEER Extraordinary

Livestock lore learned "amang the braes" is at the bottom of Bill Durno's success as a purveyor and buyer of farm beasts in the ring and out of it

by P. M. ABEL

MANY capable men who were neither ranchers nor farmers have left their mark on Alberta's livestock industry. You could begin the list with Col. MacLeod, whose red-coated constables persuaded shady Montana operators to stay on their side of the fence. At the other end of the list in point of time would be the name of J. W. Durno, auctioneer extraordinary.



J. W. Durno

No less than Col. MacLeod, Bill Durno has that quality of plain speaking and audacity that stands out in a world of mealy-mouthed conformity. It is well illustrated in the story of his first hour on a Canadian farm. Bill, so the story goes, came to Canada in 1910 as valet to a shipment of 52 stud horses, bought by John A. Turner from A. and W. Montgomery in Scotland. Upon arrival at the farm the newcomer was proudly shown the pedigreed stock already on the place, including the stallion which had won the championship at the previous Calgary show. Straightening up proudly, the owner led with his chin. He asked the raw-boned young Scot, fresh from the land of Baron's Pride and Hiawatha, what he thought of the Calgary champion.

"Do you mean to tell me that you won a championship with yon horse?" the incredulous Durno asked.

Turner swallowed the hurt, but the sequel came at dinner, eaten in the farm house immediately afterwards. The host announced to his wife that the car would be returning to Calgary right after the meal, and that Mr. Durno would be going with him. Thinking that Mr. Turner was returning to pick up his trunk, Durno declared at once that there was no need of his going back to town.

"Oh, yes, you are going," replied Turner, "and you are not coming back. I can't afford to have such a plain speaking young man around here."

It is not on record that Durno retreated from this, or any other squeeze into which his forthrightness had got him into.

AS a stockman, Bill Durno was born in the purple. His pedigree is worth more in livestock circles than a college degree. There were Durnos in the lead at every stage in that remarkable century of evolution which brought Scottish agriculture its pre-eminence. The first James Durno on record broke up a tract of moss and gravel to make the fine farm now called Jackston Fyvie. Another James Durno followed the two Marrs in the tenancy of Uppermill, one of Scotland's Shorthorn shrines. Still another of that name is counted among Scotland's farm leaders today.

Bill Durno's father was a Shorthorn breeder at Daviot, where Bill was born, an hour's walk out of Inverurie. The father was Aberdeenshire agent for A. and W. Montgomery, Scotland's largest exporters of Clydesdale horses. His eminence as a horseman earned him the distinction of judging geldings at Glasgow for five successive years. When his own herd of Shorthorns was slaughtered, following an outbreak of contagious pleuropneumonia contracted from a Canadian steer, the elder Durno turned to the production of blue-grey steers. For twenty successive years he showed at Smithfield, Britain's premier beef show, and while he never won a first it is recorded that in all that time he was never lower than fourth.

Bill himself, as his first initial indicates, is inheritor of the name of James as well as the livestock tradition. The name of William is simply a device to distinguish him from the many other James Durnos whose names are inscribed in the honor roll of Scottish agriculture.

The Turner incident related above left no scar whatever on young Bill Durno's self-assurance. Within 24 hours he had a temporary job with Bryce Wright's Shorthorn herd at De-Winton. That fall he harvested with Bill Sharp at Lacombe, after which he went for a year with Percy Switzer's purebred establishment at Lacombe.

IT was at Switzer's that the young lad from Deeside demonstrated his proficiency in the art of animal husbandry and enjoyed himself mightily in the doing of it. In this year of service he was given a horse to travel with a notoriously poor record as a foal getter. Nevertheless under Durno's management he served 110 mares and left 96 foals! Raw eggs and bran mashes seem to have been an unfailing part of that horse's ration that summer.

As with every other purebred man, the zest of competition was part of Bill Durno's nature. At the Lacombe fair he was put in charge of a stallion which filled the eye, right enough, but was an obvious roarer. Nevertheless Bill had the presumption to think that he could keep his horse quiet long enough to place ahead of the horse led by his good friend and rival, Nels Randall. By the use of every stratagem known to Aberdeenshire, and that takes in most of them, Durno managed to keep his horse tranquil for a long time. The slowest judge ever to pin on a ribbon worked over the class interminably. In spite of it Bill's horse stood in top place until Randall's stallion was put through his paces once more for a final placing. The wily Nels brushed his thundering charge close to the heels of Bill's champing war-horse nearing the boiling point. It was the pay off. Bill's stallion lunged and let out a roar that would have frightened the devil himself, and was promptly waved to the bottom of the class, led by a very meek young Scot.

THE turning point in Bill Durno's career came that fall. He noticed in the Calgary paper an ad of A. Layzell's calling for an auctioneer's clerk. The erstwhile stallioneer had no experience in that line, but he had often thought in Scotland, where a livestock auctioneer is a personage, that he would like to take a fling at it. The only qualification he could show was the apprenticeship he had served in a Scottish bank, and two subsequent years spent in travelling a large territory in northern Scotland as agent for The Yorkshire Insurance Co. The first interview with Layzell must have been concluded in record time. The bald and tubby Layzell was as English as Durno was Scottish, and besides he was no shrinking violet. He swept Durno with one searching glance and said in a challenging bellow which was open to several interpretations. "Eh, a Scotchman, I see?"

Durno's instinctive, "Yes, and damned proud of it," came straight out of the days of border warfare, but it carried conviction and he was hired on the spot.

For the next couple of months Durno clerked in Layzell's Calgary auction ring, and at farm sales around the city. Clerked and listened and made mental notes. And then his golden chance came. Layzell had undertaken to cry a sale for a farmer at Trochu now endearingly remembered as Old Man Stewart.

The day of the sale coincided with the bitterest weather of the whole winter. Layzell and his Scottish clerk had to travel (*Turn to page* 54)

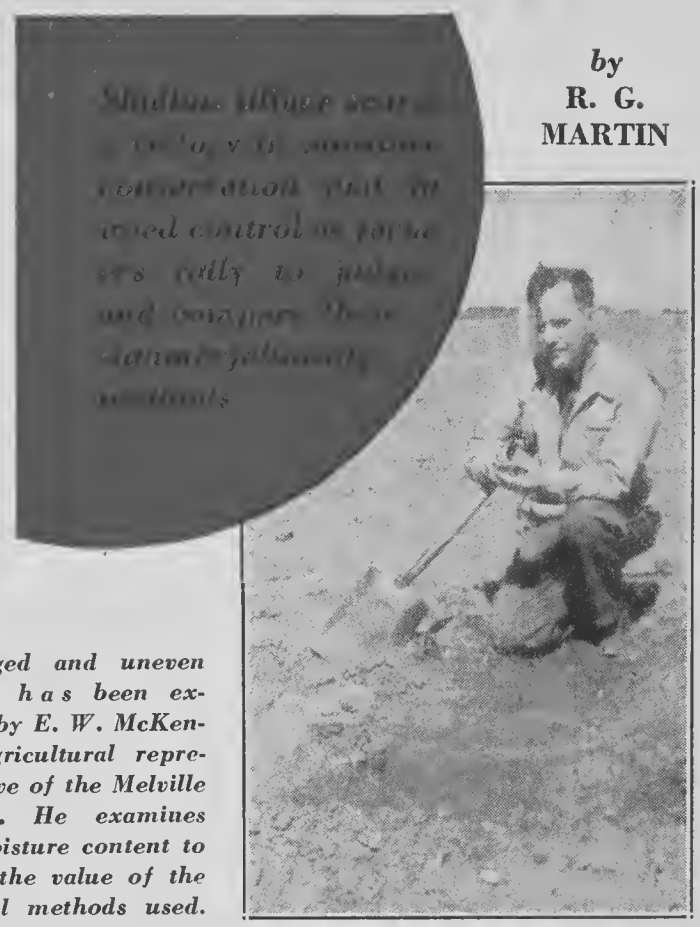


Calgary Bull Sale—annual field day for Alberta's auctioneers. Seated at the left end of the press box with arms folded is Bill Durno, awaiting his turn on the stand.

Summerfallows

...GOOD AND NOT-SO-GOOD

by R. G. MARTIN



A ridged and uneven subsoil has been exposed by E. W. McKenzie, agricultural representative of the Melville district. He examines the moisture content to assess the value of the cultural methods used.

"WHY does that fellow bother summerfallowing? If he is figuring on getting a decent fallow crop next summer he is going to be out of luck. He might as well be growing a crop of grain as that crop of weeds. It wouldn't take any more moisture out of the land, and if it was barley his field would be better off from a clean-land point of view."

Those remarks had some weight, for we were on our way to see the plots of summerfallow which had been entered in the competition sponsored by the Abernethy Agricultural Society, and the speaker was one of the judges.

There were 20 fields to be examined that day, but the benefit of the competition extended far beyond the circle of owners concerned, as the president of the Society, another occupant of our car, explained. He and his directors thought that by having the best local fields judged, keen interest would be stimulated and farmers would learn to watch their own and their neighbors' fallows with an eye to economy and effectiveness.

Walter Boucher, agricultural representative of the Yorkton district, was invited to judge the competition fields. "Summerfallowing is an expensive operation," he said, "its purpose is to conserve moisture and ensure that a reserve is on hand to give the next crop a good chance of being successful. It is not to kill weeds," he continued, "but weed control is essential to moisture conservation." With this in mind, he judged the fields on a basis of moisture preservation, weed control, timeliness of operations, erosion control and workmanship.

MOISTURE preservation was assessed by digging in the soil and noting the moisture content. Although this was affected by rainfall during the year, tillage methods and timing of operations showed more significant differences. In some cases the first cultivation of the year had been delayed until a tall, lush weed growth had taken up all the moisture which had been stored from the melting snow. Moisture losses had also been brought about by excessively deep operation of the implements—opening up the soil and airing it out too rapidly. In no cases did trash covers appear to cause loss of moisture, but on the contrary seemed to be underlaid with ample reserves.

Weed control measures differed with each type of weed being dealt with. E. W. McKenzie, agricultural representative in the Abernethy district, pointed to local weed problems. "Perennials should be treated by black summerfallowing," he said, "the sturdy underground portions of the plants must be killed out by starvation. On the other hand, the annuals should be encouraged to grow and then should be destroyed by shallow tillage before they have used much soil moisture." Judge Boucher pointed out that thorough work was essential and that many operators were being careless with small patches of couch grass, perennial thistles and other noxious weeds much easier to eradicate from the farm in the "small patch" stage, before a costly problem developed.

Mr. Boucher noted how operations had been planned with relation to the prevention of soil erosion. When he drove out on a field he liked to find it firm and well bound at the surface with some trash from the stubble of the previous year. This quality did seem to be desired, for several fields which were loose and black showed evidence of wind erosion and, in some cases, bad movement of top-soil by running water.

Workmanship was scored in the Abernethy competition. The general appearance of the field, missed weeds and fence corners gave the first impression. More detailed examination of the field at the level of cultivation indicated how well the tillage implements had been conditioned and adjusted. Many entries showed ridges and scalloping when the loose, cultivated soil was scraped away. Boucher pointed out that if it was necessary to cultivate at five inches depth in order to control the weeds and soil erosion, then five inches should be the depth across the field. If two inches depth was sufficient, it was not economical or desirable to have part of the implement digging in to five inches. Very uneven work depths were found in many fields which had been cultivated by machines in poor repair or poor adjustment.

Results of the scoring found that the summerfallow of A. K. Barnsley placed first with 87 points out of a possible 100. The 80-acre field had been worked after harvest with a discer. This shallow operation was designed to kill any weeds growing in the stubble, before they could go to seed, and secondly, to start wild oats growing in the fall to be killed later by the frost. The discer had been used again in the spring to warm the top-soil as early as possible—second attempt to propagate the wild oats and get them growing and out of the land before the next wheat crop was to be seeded. After a good growth of weeds had been stimulated it was necessary to cultivate the field and Mr. Barnsley chose a duck-foot cultivator. Evidence of good workmanship was the clean, even appearance of the field and the lack of scalloping or ridging at the cultivator sole.

A small bluff of scrub trees had been broken out on Barnsley's summerfallow and the judge commented that where these served more as a weed trap than a wind break, such action was justified. Following the mid-summer cultivation the field was harrowed and cultivated again in late August. Barnsley pointed out that fall cultivation would depend on growing conditions. "If the frost will kill the weeds before they consume too much moisture and before they approach maturity, why should I spend money on an additional field operation?"

Other contestants who placed high in the competition were Jack Steuck with 86 points, Alex Steuck 80, and George Ismond 78. Tillage on these entries had been done by combinations of discer, rod-weeder, rotary harrows, diamond harrows and cultivators. The second-place field was very firm and covered by a young growth of mustard plants. This indicated that annual weeds were being encouraged to grow while the soil was maintained in a condition to resist erosion forces. Two small patches of quack grass forced the judge to move this entry down to second placing.



The top-soil scraped away, the scene below it shows what was happening as implements worked the summerfallow. Points of the shovels penetrated to five and one-half inches and caused heavy draft while the wings worked at three inches and missed some thistles as shown in the inset.

JUDGE BOUCHER commented on the success with which many of the operators had been able to tie in the trash and maintain it throughout the summer. He cautioned, however, against pulverization in fall tillage where the trash from the previous stubble was disappearing and the soil was soon to be left exposed. He suggested that a maximum speed of 3½ miles per hour be observed when using implements which turned or threw the soil.

W. R. Merryweather of the Saskatchewan department of agriculture witnessed the judging. He pointed out that moisture conservation and soil conservation go hand in hand if proper methods are used. When moisture reserves in the soil are low, he warned of the danger of wind erosion which has been so costly over large sections of the province.

The president of the agricultural society told how the competitions had been started in the late '30's. They were dropped later because harvesting and fallowing practices were being changed so rapidly. Combines do most of the harvesting in the district now and the members of the society felt that they wanted a better (*Turn to page* 60)



Shadow OF THE PINE

by **CLIFFORD SHELTON**

Olaf had told Alma if she were ever lonely to look at that tree. She had faith that somehow his spirit lived on in it and her heart waited for his return

THE lushness of early summer was green upon the meadows. Cattle stood knee-deep in slough grass, or flicked away the flies in the willows. Where the old beaver dam cut across the creek there was water, deep enough to bring the sheep to drink. Nearby fields, impregnated with the strength of a robust spring, lay still and green; while off in the western hills, shadows curtained acres of young wheat with the promise of a golden harvest.

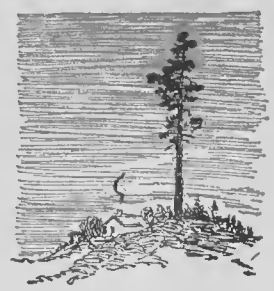
From the fence line of his meadow, Sveri Thorlaksen looked to the hills. There, etched against the skyline of purple shadows, he saw a lone pine tree, and at its foot, a little white house with its windows turning to gold, the house he had built himself. Often during the day, while at his work, he had paused to look toward the house in the hills, and each time a warmth was kindled in the blue of his eyes. The sun dipped low behind the pine and he smiled, a slow, easy smile that scarcely lifted the corners of his lips. He dug deep into his overalls pocket for a staple and then, as he held the strand of barbed wire against the fence post, his hammer rose and fell in short arcs, slowly and methodically, until the wire was firm and tight. The echoes, evenly spaced, rang from the hills. He turned to survey the new line of fencing strung out across the meadow, and the carpet of green alfalfa beyond. After checking his tools, he stood for a time gazing at the house in the hills, then with long, easy strides, he set out for his cabin at the far end of the meadow.

Later in the evening, as he passed through his gate on his way to the house in the hills, he took the mail from his letter box. There was a letter for Mrs. Alma Pedersen. Because she was not on a rural route, the carrier left her mail with his, and he took it to her in the evening. He turned the official envelope in his hand, thinking of the time four years ago, when the first one had come, the first "widow's pension check" for Alma. She had cried that evening refusing to believe even then that her husband had been lost overseas, and Sveri had stayed late with her, trying to soothe her and yet

Alma waved to him as he came to the gate. Some day he thought, I will tell her how beautiful she is.

helpless in his man's way to do anything. That night he had watched for hours from his cabin for her light to blink out.

He passed through the shadow of the tall pine which grew near her gate. It made him think of Olaf Pedersen. Big, handsome Olaf. He had been like that pine tree. Tall and straight. Strong like the grain of its wood, yielding only to friendship and love as the tree yielded to the gentle voice of an evening breeze. And when the times were hard, or the harvest had failed, his laughter had rung out like the wind singing through its branches in a storm. His head was never bowed for long. His friendship had been as firm as the heart of the pine.



SVERI recalled the day the pine tree had escaped their axes. They had been clearing land when Olaf had straightened from his work, and looking to the hills had seen the tree towering on the skyline. He had pointed it out to Sveri. "See that pine," he had said. "It's going to stay there. I'm not cutting it down."

"You are right, Olaf," he had replied. "It shouldn't be cut down."

They had wiped the sweat from their foreheads and had leaned on their axes to admire the tree. Little things at the time, but the grains of a man's life. Olaf had said, "That tree's been there a long time. I'm going to keep it there." A distant look had come into his eyes. "Some day I'll get married and build a little white house up there, a house with a picket fence and a path to the door." He had clapped Sveri on the back and had laughed. "The first one we'll name for you, Sveri."

"Yes, Olaf," he had smiled, "that is good."

ALMA waved to him as he opened the gate, and came to meet him. She was, as Olaf had said, "as soft and sweet as the summer rain," and as he fumbled with the gate latch, he wished for words of his own to greet her, but could not find them. Some day, when she came to him like this, so small and neat, in blue dress and white smock, and with the sun in her hair, he would tell her how beautiful she was. But not now. Something tightened in his throat as he watched her. It had always been like that, even before she had become Olaf's wife. He wanted to say something gay and nonchalant, something to bring swift color to her cheeks, and a sparkle to her eyes, as Olaf had done, but he could not, so he smiled without saying anything. She took his arm and with merry chatter, led him to the house.

They sat upon the step and talked. "You were fixing the fence in the meadow, Sveri?" she prompted. "Did you get your electric fence controller?"

"Yes."

"But won't it hurt the cows?"

He smiled. "Not much. Anyway, not like the bloat would by eating damp alfalfa in the early morning."

"And one wire across the meadow will keep them out of the alfalfa."

"Yes."

She placed her hand on his arm and smiled into his eyes. "Won't they be surprised when they feel the shock?"

His slow smile lifted the corners of his lips. "They will stand back and look foolish," he replied, glancing upon her small hand, and then at his own, big and rough. He fumbled in his pocket, where the staples were, then let his hand slip out of sight by his side.

"There's a late hatching of chicks," she exclaimed. "The speckled hen had a nest in the old straw stack and brought them off this morning. I didn't know where she was."

Sveri nodded and smiled.

"There were ten of them, ten little yellow balls of fluff. Aren't they cute when they're like that, Sveri?"

"They sure are."

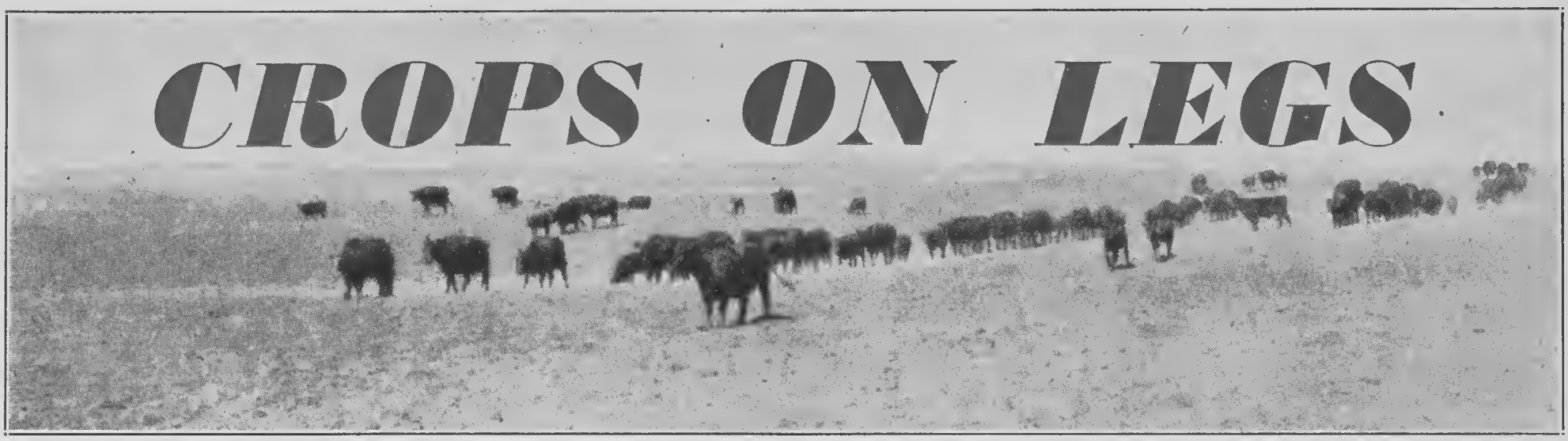
"And the mother hen, so proud of them, so concerned for their safety. I could watch them all day. Have you any more, Sveri?"

"No." He ran his fingers through his thatch of hair. "They grow quick enough. Mine have feathers already."

(*Turn to page* 40)

Illustrated by Clarence Tillenius

CROPS ON LEGS



Carlyles' herd of cattle can turn grass in the fence corner into dollars in the bank.

A MAJORITY of the farms in western Canada contributed at least a few bushels to the three to four hundred million bushels of wheat we harvested this fall. The Carlyle Brothers are likely one of the exceptions. That does not mean they will sell a lot of oats and barley and rape and flax. On the average since they bought their farm at Blackfalds, Alberta, fifteen years ago, Archie and Bob Carlyle have bought more grain than they have sold. The crops walk off the farm in the form of cattle and hogs.

In 1934, two years after Bob graduated in Agriculture from the University of Alberta, he and his older brother—a qualified veterinarian—bought five quarters of land at Blackfalds. A year or two later the veterinarian brother sold out to brother Archie. Archie and Bob have had it since.

At the time the deal was made a matter of 150 acres were broken on the five quarters. At the present time there are about 500 acres broken on these same five quarters, and two more quarters, with about 300 acres broken, have been added to the original farm.

PERHAPS the biggest change has been the growth of livestock numbers on the place. The boys started into cattle very soon after they took over the place, and, a couple of years later, started to buy and breed a few hogs. Perhaps these developments were a result of their liking for livestock. Perhaps it was also related to the fact that their father was, for many years, Livestock Commissioner in Alberta and that the Carlyle family and connection have been active in all aspects of livestock for many years. Whatever the reason may be they dipped into livestock to such an extent that it soon eclipsed all other forms of production on the place.

JOHN MOSFORTH *says:*

> ***The Carlyle Bros. at Blackfalds, Alberta, produce so much livestock on their mixed farm that in the 15 years since they started farming they have bought more grain for feed than they have sold in the elevator***

They started out with a few small heifers. Pretty soon they had built the herd up to about 70 breeding cows, and, in addition, were buying up to 200 to 250 head of feeders a year. While they were building this cattle project they were also building up a large hog enterprise.

Right from the beginning they have been interested in crossbreeding. They started out with a Shorthorn-Hereford cross. Unfortunately the herd became infected with contagious abortion and had to be sold. When they started up again they bought Angus cows and bred them to a Shorthorn bull. "If you get a bunch of crossbreds in with a bunch of other stuff the crossbreds will fit out more quickly," says Bob Carlyle.

As would be expected, the livestock projects pretty well dictate how the land will be operated. About 200 acres on the farm are seeded to grass and legume mixtures—latterly they have been using a mixture of alfalfa and creeping red fescue with a little sweet clover added. They are attempting to use grass-land in place of summerfallow. The procedure is to break the sod-land, work it down and seed crops the next spring. If any land is summerfallowed they sow a cover crop in late July and so get extra fall grazing. Any hay that is needed is taken off both grass-land and cropland, and even this sometimes has to be supplemented with bought hay and grain.

Their procedure quite often is to buy calves in the fall. Typically the heifers are fed through the winter and shipped out the next summer, often in June. The steers will be run over winter and fed out the following year. This older stuff tends to hit the market some time in March. Over the last 10 years they have sold an average of 225 to 250 head each year.

They plan the whole feeding procedure so as to use a minimum of labor. They hand-feed cattle for about a month—calves for six weeks—until they are well on their feed. Even the hand-feeding does not take a great deal of labor. The feed sheds are below a large hill. Grain is run into a bin well up the hill, goes down by gravity into a roller and is blown into a second bin further down the hill. A long feed bunk, several feet wide, starts at a door in the lower feed bin and runs out into the feed lot. The man feeding can shovel the grain directly from the bin into the feed bunk. Later in the feeding period self-feeders are used. Incidentally, the cattle are not stabled. They are bedded and the feed lot is so located that prevailing winds are broken.

The feed used is simply hay and mixtures of cereal grains. The boys fed a lot of wheat during the war, but it now makes an expensive feed. Determination of the feeds to be used depends pretty much on the relative costs of the different grains available. All grain fed is rolled, rather than chopped. This means there is no dust and the feed is coarser; experience indicates that it causes less digestive troubles than is the case with chopped grain.





Above: Instead of penning and hand-feeding, the Carlyles run the pigs on pasture and self feed.

Left: Grain is dumped into the top granary, run through a rolling-mill, blown into the lower granary, and is shovelled right into the steer feeding trough.

THE cattle are only half the farm. There are 25 sows that produce an average of nine pigs a litter, and do it twice a year. The first litter is born anywhere from the first of January to the end of March. Second litters start in the middle of August, the majority coming during September.

All pigs are born in a farrowing pen. The building contains 13 pens each eight feet square. There is a three-foot alley-way down the centre, with pens on both sides. There is a track attached to the ceiling above the alley-way and a litter carrier is run in the track. Litter is forked out of the pens directly into the litter carrier and rolled through an end door and dumped. Later it is picked up with a tractor-mounted hydraulic lift, loaded into a manure spreader, and scattered on the fields. (*Turn to page* 52)

D. W. Nash Peeks Into Some Old Records

Mr. Chairman

An article based on the reading of two old minute books of Scandia Local No. 904 of The United Farmers of Alberta

MY big dictionary says that history is a narrative of past events; "any narrative, story, account." Well, then, the two old minute books of Scandia Local No. 904, of the United Farmers of Alberta, which cover the story of that local from February 1921, until sometime in 1935, are historical documents, and the story they tell is history. They were lent to me to read for another purpose, but because they are history and because the history they contain was, and still is, so important to a significant element of post-World War I Canadian immigrants, they are entitled to a place in the sun of 1949.

These old minute books are entitled to recognition now for other reasons also. Out of what they stood for a generation ago have grown many things important to prairie agriculture. They are the grass-roots record of the early days of settlement on C.P.R. irrigated land. In the handwritten, generally-pencilled, always-blunt and sometimes-misspelled recordings by Johnsons, Andersons, Bengtsons, Ericksons, Axelsons and Olsons, of what others proposed or supported—often of the same names as the recorders—there is a directness and a singleness of purpose, which eventually was to lead to ownership of the largest user-owned irrigation system in North America.

THOSE were the days, too, when the farmers of Alberta were in politics up to their ears. The United Farmers of Alberta led the farmers of the province in the formation of a provincial farmers' government in 1921; and in the general elections of that year helped to send 65 members to Ottawa, representing the Progressive Movement of that period. When the Progressive Movement faded after the general election of 1925, the Ginger Group of 14 members (largely from Alberta), kept the flag flying for a considerable time.

But there isn't very much in the minute books about politics. Once in a while, as for example in March 1927, the minutes record resolutions such as the following: "A motion made by Oscar Johnson and seconded by Ben Johnson that each member of this Local be assessed fifty cents, to be used as a contribution to the political fund of the Medicine Hat federal constituency. Carried." "A motion made by Oscar Johnson and seconded by John Erickson that the questions on money, banking and credit be distributed amongst the members and be ready to answer the same at the next meeting. Carried."

For the most part, however, the members of the Scandia Local were concerned with more important things than politics—more important because they were closer to home and had a part in everyday living. They were matters such as getting a post office, and who could be persuaded to be postmaster at $65 per year; who would be recommended for road boss; and whether they could convince the district engineer that more money should be spent on the road out of the district, which was impassable at certain periods.

PROCEEDINGS were not always according to Hoyle. In February 1922, the minutes report: "Meeting called to order by President Oscar Johnson. Mr. Johnson stated he had been elected president before he was a member, but he intended to join. No objection. . . ." At the same meeting: "An invitation to the Bow Slope Com (munity) Hall for February 11 was accepted, at which Mr. H. W. Wood was to be the principal speaker. Andrew Johnson, Henry Pearson and G. A. Anderson were appointed a program committee. . . . Motion made and seconded that the before named prog. committee of three men be appointed for the whole year to get 10 no's on the program each evening. Carried."

The Local was a year old in January 1922. Consequently: "Being that a year has passed since we organized our Local, we decided for a little midnight lunch and good time. Mr. Carl Anderson and Mr. Oscar Johnson being appointed as program Com., and a (hot time) is expected in the little red school house on the hill." The next minutes record that "after a motion to adjourn was passed, the ladies served a very nice lunch which the men made short work of."

By August 1923, the Local had become interested and involved in many different matters. Early in the minutes of a meeting of the 17th, this appears: "Motion made and passed that the sec. buy a portfolio to carry correspondence and papers in, as his overalls could not hold them all." Proof of important business occurs later when "following discussion over the new Wheat Pool, a motion was made and carried that a vote be taken to see how many were in favor of the Pool. Result was almost unanimous in favor of the Pool. As the Wheat Pool contracts had not arrived, Wednesday, August 22, was decided as the time to sign up."

Other important matters are tersely referred to from time to time. "Moved and seconded that the Sec. write for information on the Dominion Cow Act." "Moved and seconded that the Chair-man appoint a delegation of three, to go to Tocoma colony for information on what they are doing in regard to getting the long-expected, much-thot-of Bow Slope Railroad." "An invitation extended by Mr. Odstead to come to Tocoma colony for a blow-out next Friday night." "Moved and seconded that the secretary be instructed to write to B. C. Colman (D. C. Coleman), Vic. President of the western divition (division) of the C.P.R. in the demands of getting a railroad." "Mr. Erickson, our self-appointed representative to Tocoma colony, made a report before our Local, which was held there to decide whether they were satisfied with treatment given by the C.P.R. They decided that they were." "Motion made and carried that a petition for a bridge over the Bow River here be drawn up and a copy sent to the Vauxhall Local for signing. Mr. C. O. Johnson, Ben Johnson and Carl J. Anderson were elected to draft this petition." (They never did get the bridge.) "Motion made and carried that Mr. J. L. Johnson build suitable pigeonholes for convenience in handling mail in the proposed p.o., and to collect for the same from everyone on the first mail day." (Later, the Local paid Mr. Johnson.)

AT least as far as the record goes, few words were wasted. Here is a four-line example: "Meeting called to order by Pres. C. O. Johnson. An entertaining program was rendered. Grasshopper situation was discussed. Mr. Johnson reported that there were thirty applications for a library ahead of ours, so that we would have to wait for a while for ours. Motion made and carried that Mr. C. R. Mitchell be instructed to do all in his power to improve the road to the ferry." Later in the same year: "Mr. Martin presented letters from the Road Supervisor authorizing the expenditure of $260 for grading the road leading to the ferry."

As far as the Local was concerned, money was not too much of a problem. It was generally more useful in those days to the members as individuals, than to the Local. A year-end balance of $60 was affluence and finances sagged thereafter for two or three years, until a deficit (*Turn to page* 34)



Uncle Reece stood there with the dead chicken in his hand. Aunt Vicky hollered "What killed my pullet?"

POP GOES THE WEASEL

by **MARK HAGER**

The day the weasel struck one of the pullets, our argument against the stove Aunt Vicky wanted versus the pistol Uncle Reece wanted won out. Then my Uncle had his chance to demonstrate his shooting prowess

WHEN I was a boy, I stayed a lot with my Uncle Reece and Aunt Vicky. I liked him better than her. Uncle Reece was my hero. He told me of his shooting days, which impressed me, so I told other men about my Uncle Reece and his shooting days, but they always just grinned and said that was before my Aunt Vicky disarmed my Uncle Reece.

Uncle Reece kept promising me that just as soon as he could wheedle my Aunt Vicky out of twenty more dollars, he intended to buy the pistol we had been looking at in Mr. Henderson's showcase over in town. Uncle Reece had twenty dollars, but the pistol was forty dollars.

Aunt Vicky had forty dollars in her pocketbook, for I saw it, but she would not let Uncle Reece have the twenty dollars he wanted; instead, she was trying to wheedle Uncle Reece out of his twenty to put with her forty to buy a new cook stove she had been looking at in the same store, the cook stove being priced sixty dollars.

I took sides with Uncle Reece. I could see no future thrill in the new cook stove compared with Uncle Reece telling me how he intended to cut his initials in the barn door with that pistol, and so Uncle Reece and I kept our ears to the ground, listening for some argument to convince Aunt Vicky we needed the pistol worse than she needed the cook stove.

For a while, it seemed hopeless. One leg was missing from the cook stove, and Aunt Vicky had one corner of the stove propped up on a stack of red bricks. The latch to the oven door was broken off and she had to prop the oven door closed with a stick of stove wood. And right when Uncle Reece would be in the middle of a tale about a running gun battle with five bandits, that oven door would fall off on the floor. Knowing what was coming from Aunt Vicky, Uncle Reece would get up and stroll off out to the barn and curry his plow mare, Old Kate, until he figured Aunt Vicky was through with the stove for that meal.

Then one day our argument against the stove and in favor of the pistol came. It came in a most simple manner . . . just the squall of a chicken out in the wired-in chicken lot. Before Uncle Reece and I could get there, a weasel had killed one of Aunt Vicky's white pullets. Uncle Reece and I peppered rocks at the weasel, but did not touch it.

Then here came Aunt Vicky, making no more noise than a cloud moving off the moon. Uncle Reece was standing there with the dead chicken in his hand, and Aunt Vicky hollered:

"What killed my pullet?"

"A weasel," Uncle Reece said, and I saw the grin cracking in his face when he winked at me.

"Did you kill the weasel?" Aunt Vicky hollered.

I saw then she had laid down the gap . . . she was wide open for Uncle Reece to pull the trigger.

"Now whoever," he said, "heard of anybody killing a weasel without a gun?"

"A rock," she said. "Didn't you even throw a rock?"

Uncle Reece then told Aunt Vicky that he did not think she had given her mind to the matter of throwing rocks as compared with shooting. Uncle Reece explained that if rocks had been sufficient, there would have been no necessity for the invention of a gun in the first place. Uncle Reece marched up and down the chicken lot, holding the dead chicken by the legs and explaining to Aunt Vicky about weasels, rocks and guns.

UNCLE REECE said a weasel was quick enough to run through a dog's mouth before he could shut it; and as to rocks, he said rocks made a whizzing sound, which was ample warning to a weasel to get in the clear.

He explained that this was a defenseless household without a gun or a dog.

Then he asked Aunt Vicky how often a weasel eats. Aunt Vicky slung her head and said she did not know how often a weasel eats.



Illustrated by Robert Reck

Uncle Reece admitted he was not sure, but he supposed. He said, "Suppose a weasel eats once a day . . . one chicken . . . forty days . . . forty chickens . . . at a minimum of a dollar a chicken . . . forty dollars. . . ."

Forty dollars was the price of the pistol. and Aunt Vicky slung her head and went back toward the house mad as a hornet. It looked as if Uncle Reece's argument had failed, but two nights later Aunt Vicky found another dead pullet. She did not mention it to Uncle Reece, but she slipped me twenty dollars.

"Tell your Uncle Reece to buy that pistol. Tell him I want that weasel killed." She was mad, and I told Uncle Reece she was mad, but he said all we had to do was buy the gun and keep quiet until the weasel returned. Once we proved to her the value of a pistol around the house, she would get in a good humor, and after that, I could ride behind him on old Kate and he would show me some fancy shooting from horseback, and cut his initials in the barn door.

Uncle Reece let me go with him to town to buy the pistol. We went in the truck, and while Uncle Reece was buying the pistol, I looked back there and saw the cook stove Aunt Vicky had been looking at every time she let me go to town with her, and I recollected how she would touch it with her hands and feel the shiny polished handles.

As we drove back, Uncle Reece drove with one hand and with the other he squeezed off a few rounds at the knots on the trees, and you could see the white spots where the bullets knocked the bark off the knots.

I told Uncle Reece I considered that good shooting. I told him I didn't believe Jesse James could beat such shooting as that.

"That's only a breeze," Uncle Reece said. "My long suit is shooting from the back of a fleet horse."

And judging from this first breeze, the idea struck me that my Uncle Reece might have made a name for himself as a bandit if he hadn't married my Aunt Vicky and got disarmed.

When we got home, Aunt Vicky was in the kitchen and she did not come out to meet us as usual and see what we had brought from town. Uncle Reece drove a nail over the door and hung the new pistol on it.

Then came the waiting and pouting. It seemed like the weasel never would return, and as far as I could tell, Aunt Vicky was not speaking to Uncle Reece. She would set the table, but she would go off upstairs when Uncle Reece and I sat down to eat.

I got impatient to see Uncle Reece tackle the weasel. I wondered if he would be quick on the draw like the cowboys out West, and I wanted to get on Old Kate behind him when he would shoot from horseback and cut his initials in the barn door.

Then one day Aunt Vicky told me she was going over to her home. She said she would be back at sundown, and left things cooked for our lunch. She did not tell Uncle Reece where she was going or when she was coming back. I saw a little uneasiness in Uncle Reece's face when he stopped chopping stove wood and watched her go down the road. I believe Uncle Reece had a feeling Aunt Vicky might be walking out on him.

"Where's your Aunt Vicky going?" Uncle Reece asked me.

(*Turn to page* 50)



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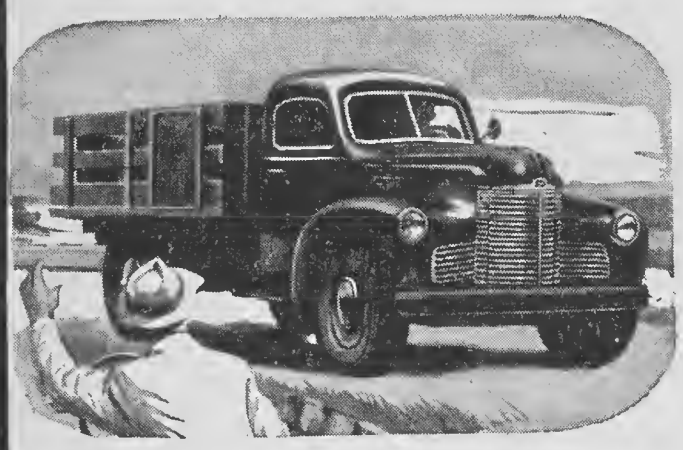
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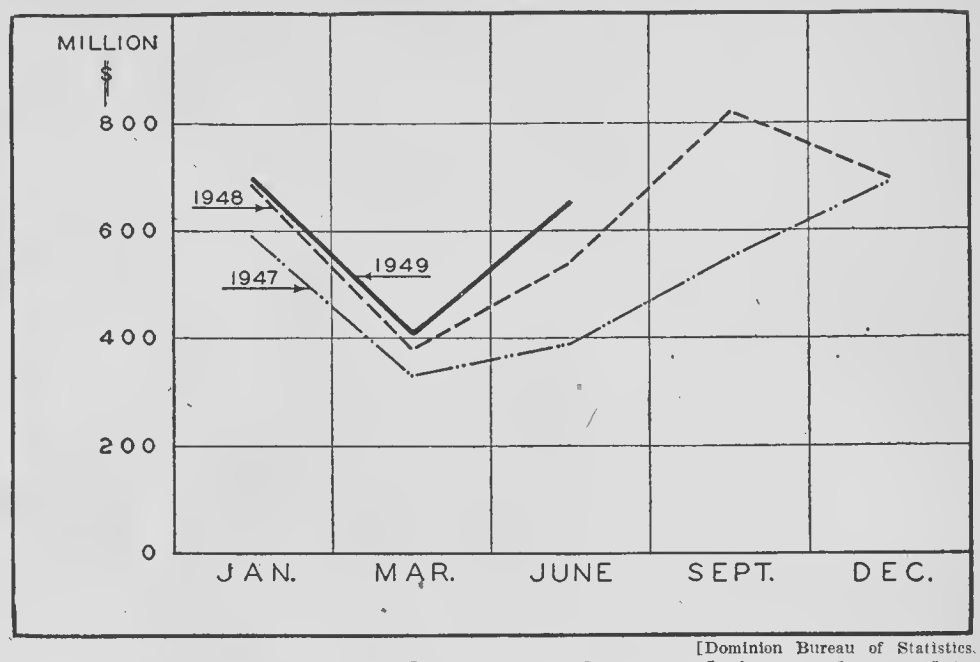
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News of Agriculture



[Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Canadian cash farm income reaches its lowest level just before seeding and its highest after harvest, reflecting the influence of cash crops. The graph also portrays the rising level of post-war farm income.

Farm Cash Income Higher

FOR the first six months of 1949, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Canadian farm cash income rose to $1,056,522,000.

This amount was $135,000,000 more than for the same period in 1948, and $332,000,000 more than for the first six months of 1947. It included, however, wheat equalization and adjustment payments made early last year, to the amount of $204,625,000.

Including these special payments, income from all grain, seeds and hay totalled $345.8 million, very slightly less than the $347.2 million received from all livestock, including cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry, but exclusive of dairy products, eggs and wool.

Commodity Clearing House

N. E. DODD, Director-General of FAO, has proposed to the 58 member nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that an international commodity clearing house should be set up. The clearing house would enable surplus producing countries to keep on producing agricultural commodities without resort to restrictive measures or dumping devices. It follows more or less directly one of the proposals endorsed last June by the Annual Meeting of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers at Guelph. This proposal in turn was originally brought forward by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

If the United Nations accepts the principle of the international commodity clearing house, importing countries unable to buy as much as they would like of needed foods at current world prices, would be able to procure their needs at reasonably reduced prices in the currency of the exporting country, or at the full price in their own currency.

This recommendation was requested by a resolution of the FAO Council which met in Paris, France, in June, and is embodied in the report of a group of experts from all parts of the world, to study the question during August and September.

As briefly outlined in the announcement by FAO, the recommendation is as follows:

"The proposed ICCH would be a public corporation with a capital equivalent to $5 billion, contributed by member countries in their national currencies. It is proposed to set this up as an action arm of FAO, so that no new international organization would be necessary. It would be operated by a manager appointed by the FAO Director-General, assisted by a board of 15 commodity trade experts elected by the conference of FAO.

"Of the authorized capital, 20 per cent would be paid in initially. The remainder would be called up as needed, payments to be earmarked for use in the contributing countries to buy commodities declared in surplus. Countries could make as much or as little use of ICCH as they desire, and all transactions would be by contract between the countries involved. Transactions would be handled through existing channels of trade."

Hog Marketing Scheme

ONTARIO hog producers now have a hog marketing scheme which is operative under the Farm Products Marketing Act of the province. The regulations under this act have been under discussion for about three years, but are enforceable now that final agreement has been reached, by the Farm Products Marketing Board. In order to make the scheme effective it was necessary to secure Ontario hog-carcass grading and marketing regulations, which must, of course, conform with the Dominion grading standards and regulations. Consequently, Ontario passed a Farm Products Grade and Sales Act, the regulations under which are enforceable by the Ontario Livestock Branch.

Total Farm Production Index

THE Dominion Bureau of Statistics has compiled index figures for Canada by provinces, exclusive of Newfoundland, to show the physical volume of agricultural production based on the five-year period 1935-1939 equalling 100.

On this basis the lowest production in Canada during the last 14 years, was in 1937, when the index figure reached 83.7. In that year, the year of Saskatchewan's most disastrous crop failure, her index figure dropped to 31.1, while Alberta's was 81.1 and Manitoba's 115. The poorest year for Manitoba and Alberta was 1936, when the index figure for Manitoba was 66.8 and for Alberta 71. British Columbia's poor year was 1935, when the index

figure was 91.2. Ontario, on the other hand, had her poorest year in 1943, when the index dropped to 89.4 and in fact, never rose above 117.8 after 1942.

In the latter year Saskatchewan achieved an index figure higher than for any other province in any of the 14 years since 1934. In 1942 her figure stood at 247.9 as compared with a national average of 164.2 and figures of 125 for Ontario, 174.2 for Manitoba, 184.2 for Alberta and 99.9 for British Columbia. This means that Saskatchewan showed greater increased production in that year as compared with her own average, or basic index figure, than did any other province as compared with its own basic production. Saskatchewan also led in the years 1935, 1939, 1940 and 1944. It was Manitoba's turn to lead in 1937, 1938, 1941, 1943 and to tie with Alberta in 1948. In addition to the latter year, Alberta led in relative output of agricultural production in 1945, 1946 and 1947.

Only one eastern province enjoyed the best relative output in any year, namely, New Brunswick in 1936.

Chilled Beef Shipped By Air

ONE of the great difficulties experienced by Australian cattlemen is the fact that cattle must be driven over long distances to abattoirs, accompanied by substantial losses in weight and in quality.

A company has been established in Northwest Australia which is using air freight to carry beef from stations located about 190 miles from the nearest port. The company is jointly owned by the Western Australia Government and two aviation companies. A mobile killing plant and refrigeration facilities have been erected on one of the stations, where the cattle are slaughtered and the chilled beef flown to the seaport. Many weeks of road travel are eliminated and it is reported that upwards of 20 per cent more meat can be delivered in this fashion, all of which is of first class quality.

Operating for only a few months, the initial success of the scheme has been so substantial that similar projects are under discussion in northern Queensland and that part of Australia known as the Northern Territories.

Anglo-Argentine Agreement

FOR a long period before World War II, Britain had millions of pounds invested in Argentine railways and other industries. The war brought about a liquidation of these investments and the postwar period has created difficulties in the traditional trade relationship between Britain and Argentina. Efforts to complete trade agreements have not been satisfactory for Britain. Recently a new five-year trade agreement between the two countries provides more assurance for Britain in the matter of food supplies and would provide Britain herself with an outlet for some £92.5 million of British exports, in the form of coal, and manufactured goods. This figure compares with exports of £34.8 million in 1947 and £52.5 million in 1943. In addition to the £92.5 million figure for manufactured products which covers the first year of the agreement, Britain is also to sell Argentina £29 million worth of petroleum and petroleum products. Britain will get no preferred market,









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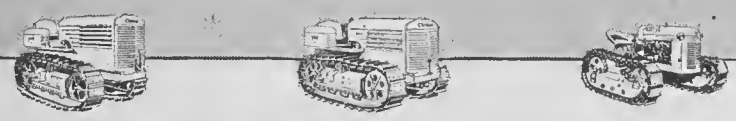
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but under the Argentine government system of import licensing, import licenses will be freely granted to the amounts stated in the agreement.

One-Man Helicopter

A UNITED KINGDOM firm has designed what is called a Hoppicopter, which is, in fact, a light, compact, cheap, one-man helicopter. Able to move in any direction, remaining motionless in the air, or turning on its own axis, the machine will take off from, or land in 30 square feet, carry 100 pounds of luggage, go straight upwards to 12,000 feet, and weighs only 175 pounds. It is able to stand steady on uneven ground and "windmill" down to a safe landing in case of engine failure. It is powered by a two-cylinder engine and is expected to be useful for sport and touring as well as for patrol work and for large farms.

Farm Science Job

AT the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Sir John Russell, former director of the famous Rothemstead Experiment Station in England, outlined the challenge which steadily increasing world population offers to the world's farmers and agricultural scientists.

The world's total land area is about 35.7 billion acres. Of this, only about 11 billion acres are thought to be climatically suited to crop growth. Because a large part of the land suitable for crop growth is impracticable for cultivation, only from three to four billion acres or seven to ten per cent of the world's land surface is actually cultivated. It works out to about 1½ acres per head for the entire world population.

Considering the small percentage of land that is cultivated, the fact that animals are able to convert only from 10 to 25 per cent of their fodder into human food, and that plants are able to fix not more than five per cent of the radiant energy from the sun which they receive, the challenge to agricultural science and to farmers is immediately apparent.

Canadian Meat Production

IN 1947 and in 1948, Canada produced, exclusive of edible offal and lard, approximately 50 per cent more meat in each year than the average for the 1934-38 period. All told, including beef, veal, pork, mutton and lamb, production was 2.12 billion pounds in 1947 and two billion pounds in 1948. Other North American countries, including Mexico and the United States, also produced much more, the three countries combined, however, producing 2.2 billion pounds less in 1948 than in 1947.

Europe showed a very substantial deficiency in production as compared with the five prewar years, and even less in 1948 than in 1947. The reduction was from 22.6 billion pounds in 1934-38 to 12.3 billion pounds in 1948. Meat production in South America, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay has been increased over the prewar years by a much smaller proportion than in North America. Production last year was 8.8 billion pounds.

Figures for total meat production in 49 countries showed that North America produces approximately half of the total.

Get It At A Glance

A collection of items you will enjoy reading

BETWEEN August 1 and September 15, there were 7.1 million bushels of wheat and a further six million bushels in the form of flour purchased from the United States under the International Wheat Agreement. Twenty-six importing countries had ratified the Agreement as follows: Austria, Belgium, Ceylon, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, Norway, Venezuela, El Salvador and Bolivia.

* * *

ACCORDING to second estimates of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the production of wheat in the three Prairie Provinces this year was 342,000,000 bushels, compared with 363,000,000 in 1948. Oats this year was 198,000,000 bushels (compares with 224,000,000 last year); barley 114,000,000 (142,000,000); rye 8,020,000 (22,350,000); and flax 2,066,000 (16,830,000).

* * *

ON October 22 the University of Alberta will hold its fall convocation, at which time it will confer honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws on two Alberta residents and on L. B. Thomson, Director, P.F.R.A., Regina, former superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current, Sask. Mr. Thomson is also a fellow and past-president of the Agricultural Institute of Canada.

* * *

BRITISH scientists have found that if a pig is tired the sugar content of its blood goes down, and if it is then killed, a brown surface will develop on the flesh where it is cut. Such brown films have brought some complaints on the British market. The solution is not to give the pigs more sleep, but to feed them sugar, eight to 12 hours before slaughtering.

* * *

AS a concession to Britain's dollar difficulties, she will now be permitted by the United States to use $175,000,000 of Marshall Aid to buy Canadian wheat. This amount will cover about 60 per cent of her Canadian purchases during the present crop year. In return for this concession, Britain will buy American wheat to the extent of $30 million and perishable produce from the U.S. amounting to between $8 and $10 million.

* * *

DURING the year 1948-49, Canada exported slightly more than 230 million bushels of wheat in the form of wheat and flour, to 85 destinations. British Commonwealth countries took 151,400,000 bushels as wheat and 33 million bushels in the form of flour.

* * *

THE Research Laboratory of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada recently announced that the average protein content of this year's crop of hard red spring wheat in Canada, based on analysis of 3,839 samples, is 13.5 per cent. This figure is .4 per cent below 1948, but only .1 per cent lower than the twenty-year average. The Manitoba crop was lowest with 12.8 per cent, Saskatchewan next with 13.2 per cent and Alberta highest with 13.8 per cent. Analysis of 1,500 additional samples may change the general average slightly.

* * *

FARMERS of Newfoundland have completed organization of a provincial farmers' association, and are expected to shortly apply for affiliation with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. It is reported that the organization will tackle marketing of farm products as one of the outstanding problems of the Island community.

* * *

A MANUFACTURING firm in Folkestone, England, has developed an all-purpose truck, known as the Utilecon. The outstanding feature of this machine is that it can be converted from a truck into a passenger vehicle (or vice versa) in 30 seconds. It is based on a standard type truck, but is equipped with seats which will fold into the floor and leave an unobstructed space when the machine is to be used as a truck.

* * *

THE first session of the new International Wheat Council was held in July in Washington. A vote was taken and London was chosen as the permanent seat of the Council.

* * *

CANADA'S population reached a record figure of 13,545,000 as of June 1 this year, an increase of 662,000 over a year earlier. The exceptional rise was due to natural increase and to the entry of Newfoundland into confederation, which added 348,000 to the Canadian population.

* * *

ON September 23, Hon. C. M. Fines, provincial treasurer for Saskatchewan, announced that a final payment of $465,169.77 had been made by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool on its indebtedness incurred in 1929-30, amounting to more than $13 million. In 1932 the indebtedness was amortized over a twenty-year period and was backed by a twenty-year provincial bond issue maturing October 1, 1951. The Pool thus made its final principal payment two years in advance.

* * *

H. H. HANNAM, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, recently pointed out that capital invested in agriculture was approximately equal to 90 per cent of all that invested in manufacturing, and provides about 30 per cent of Canada's export trade.

* * *

A UNITED STATES chemical company has begun commercial production of a product developed by bacterial fermentation, which is known as APF, or Animal Protein Factor, that is said to have a Vitamin B 12 content, approximately 40 times that of good fish meal. APF is not a protein itself, but a group of vitamins thought to belong to the Vitamin B complex, which have been known to exist in cow and chicken manure, as well as in such animal proteins as fish meal, tankage, meat scrap and liver meal.

* * *

IOWA farmers will harvest somewhere around 618,184,000 bushels of corn, for an average yield of 56.0 bushels per acre. Last year's production was 666,730,000 bushels, for a per acre average yield of 61.0 bushels.

HAVOLINE KEEPS YOUR ENGINES CLEANER — SO YOU GET MORE POWER



THIS GREAT MOTOR OIL ALSO FIGHTS RUST WHEN ENGINES ARE IDLE

Farmers from coast-to-coast are changing to New and Improved Havoline, Texaco's finest motor oil, for these money-saving, time-saving reasons:

1. It keeps engines cleaner and better lubricated.
2. So you get more power from every drop of fuel.
3. You cut down repair bills caused by carbon and sludge.
4. During winter months when engines are idle, Havoline helps prevent rust formation.

It will pay you to change to Havoline. Get in touch with your McColl-Frontenac Representative.

THIS FARMER WILL GET more power from his tractor at a saving in fuel because Havoline Motor Oil will keep the engine cleaner and better lubricated.



Friendly Heave-Ho: Your McColl-Frontenac Representative gives you neighborly service and with it, products that save you money. Order some Havoline Motor Oil today, and get both.

TEXACO REG.T.M.

IT PAYS TO FARM WITH TEXACO Petroleum PRODUCTS

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The Styleline
De Luxe 4-Door Sedan

There's no tougher proving ground than a farm, and on the farm they call Chevrolet the most Beautiful BUY of all!

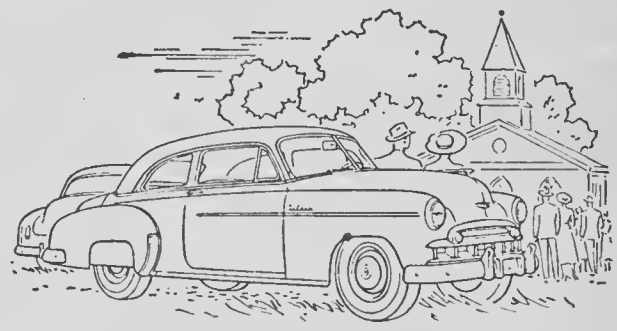


Farmers find that Chevrolet has extra roominess with "Five-Foot Seats" . . . loads of trunk space for the bulkiest bundles you buy on your trips to town . . . plenty of room for tools and equipment.

Yes, the toughest test *any* car can pass is use on the farm. Farmers demand more durability . . . more dependability. Chevrolet has proved itself the farmers' choice for value.

Then, too, farmers prefer the distinctive Chevrolet styling that remains modern and beautiful through the years.

Canadian farmers have given the new Chevrolet an overwhelming vote of confidence for its riding comfort, for its Valve-in-Head engine that stands up to the heaviest farm use . . . for its economy of operation and upkeep. On all these counts, today's farmer knows Chevrolet is the most Beautiful BUY of all!



Chevrolet gives the farmer practical car styling . . . styling that is years ahead with more room, more comfort, more safety . . . lower centre of gravity without loss of road clearance.

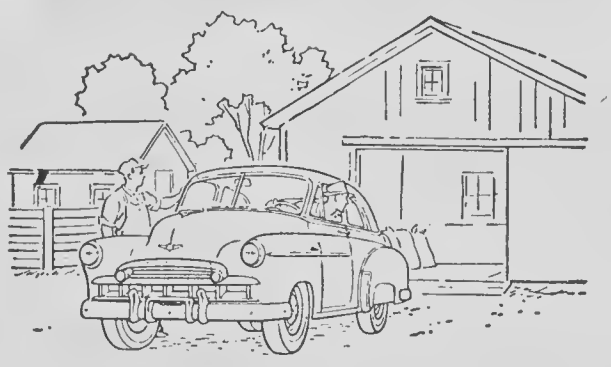
CHEVROLET

A PRODUCT OF GENERAL MOTORS

F-49-C-3



Farmers figure features against cost, and find Chevrolet delivers top value all the way. Chevrolet features can't be matched at Chevrolet prices . . . and that's why farmers prefer Chevrolet.



Farmers say Chevrolet's Valve-in-Head engine provides power aplenty for the toughest job — and it's easy on gas and upkeep costs. Power with economy makes Chevrolet the ideal farm car.



All of the family enjoys Chevrolet's improved visibility and the protection of its safety plate glass. The 30% increase in glass area means more pleasure . . . more safety.

LIVESTOCK



Recently erected headquarters of the Lower Fraser Valley Artificial Insemination Association, including spacious bull quarters and laboratory.

Cattle Gains On Grass

INVESTIGATION and study over a 20-year period at the Dominion Experimental Station, Manyberries, Alberta, has served to give fairly reliable figures as to the gains that can be expected from cattle on range. In the experimental work, shortgrass range that was properly stocked was used, and well-bred beef cattle were tested.

Two-year-old steers were found to make higher gains than any other class of cattle during the grazing season. Average summer gains indicate that about 375 pounds of gain may be expected with such stock during the period April to October inclusive. Heifers of the same age are reported as gaining 350 pounds during the season. A yearling steer will gain about 325 pounds, while a yearling heifer will gain 300 pounds. In spite of the fact that steers outgain heifers in both age groups, it will usually be found that the heifer will winter with less difficulty than the steer of comparable age.

If range is overgrazed these gains will be materially reduced. Gains made at Manyberries, even in some of the driest years, have compared favorably with better years, when an ample acreage of grass was available for each animal on the range. Gains are materially reduced when cattle are forced to forage on an overgrazed range.

Beet Tops For Fattening

SUGAR BEET tops may be fed to cattle up to 12 pounds daily of dried tops or 25 pounds of silage, and up to one and one-half pounds of dried tops, or three pounds of silage for lambs, according to the Dominion Experimental Station, Lethbridge. Properly conserved they are highly palatable and nutritious, being high in protein, Vitamin A (carotene), and in minerals. Fed too heavily they may cause serious scouring, because of their high mineral content.

Turning stock into the field as soon as the beets are lifted is very wasteful, especially in wet weather. Dirty beet tops increase scouring and decrease the feed value, while waste from cropping is high. The Lethbridge Station has found that about two and one-half tons of beet-top silage is equal in feed value to one ton of alfalfa hay. About four tons of silage will be secured from an acre of beets carrying a 15-ton crop. This means that when properly cared for and fed, an acre of beet tops, at present prices of alfalfa hay in Alberta, is worth over $30.

Last winter at Lethbridge, three groups of yearling steers were used to compare alfalfa hay as a fattening feed, with sugar beet tops as silage. One group received alfalfa hay, another equal quantities of hay and beet-top silage, and a third group beet-top silage only. All groups were given a full feed of grain (oats and barley) in addition. The group fed beet-top silage alone, scoured badly enough that one-tenth of a pound of ground limestone per head daily (sometimes effective) did not check scouring. All steers, however, made good gains throughout the experiment.

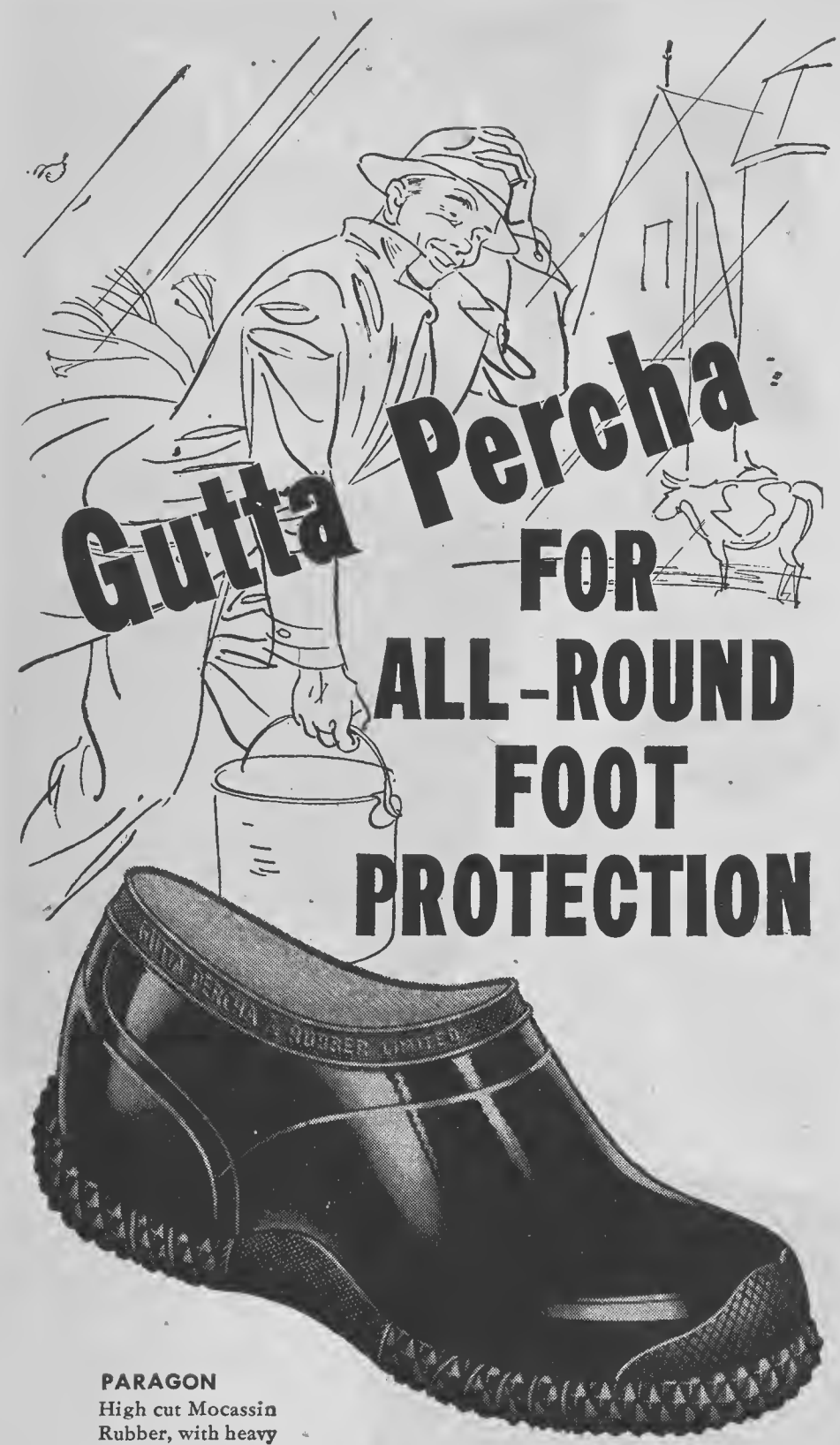
Coyote Control

WHEN the wind howls across the tundra, and the bush fills with snow and hard-packed trails are covered with deep, loose drifts, hungry packs of timber wolves turn their thoughts and their lolling tongues to the softer life in more southern regions. They yearn for the warm blood and tasty meat of a fat beef, and their tracks lead toward settlement, and their minds to a close-fought struggle with man.

When these itinerant packs appear in settlements they create quite a sensation, and much is written and more is said about their depredations. In spite of the glamour of an animal able to hamstring a ton bull with one slash of flashing teeth, the damage they do to farm production is much less than that done by the timid coyote when the total of damage is added up at year's end.

Killing of young calves and lambs is the coyote's specialty. The only preventive is to kill him. The bounty system has many weaknesses. In the United States the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, employs a staff of men on full time, using aeroplanes, rifles, cyanide coyote guns, traps and a very effective poison called 10-80. This procedure has greatly reduced coyote numbers. In parts of Montana some range sheepmen are even considering certain





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methods of fencing as a means of eliminating the need for herders.

The poison 10-80 (Sodium fluoroacetate) is injected into sheep and horse carcasses, one carcass per township during the winter. The carcasses are placed at points least likely to be frequented by dogs. Some dogs have picked up the poison, but there have been very few complaints. Both sheepmen and hunters are of the opinion that a reduction has been achieved in coyote numbers which could not have been attained without the use of the poison.

The Dominion Experimental Station, Manyberries, Alberta, suggests that any efforts on the part of the governments of the prairie provinces to institute such a program should receive endorsement from ranchers and sheepmen who have suffered losses attributable to coyote depredations.

Market Cattle Shrinkage

SOME shrinkage of market livestock is allowed for on weights at shipping point. A three per cent shrink is common on cattle, but sometimes an overnight shrink is used.

Young stock will shrink more than older cattle, and at the Manyberries Range Station tests have shown that three-year-old steers corralled overnight, without feed or water, will shrink 3.5 per cent in 12 hours. At the end of that time, they will probably drink sufficient water to regain about 90 per cent of the loss. Yearlings and two-year-olds of both sexes made an average shrink of 4.5 per cent during a 12-hour overnight period, and 9.4 per cent during a 24-hour period in the corral. Hot weather will cause more shrink than cooler weather, but, given the same temperatures, shrinkage in July will be approximately the same as in September.

H. J. Hargrave, Co-ordinator of Range Research, Lethbridge, Alta., suggests that stockmen will benefit by taking a three per cent shrink rather than an overnight shrink, provided the cattle were not trailed any distance before weighing. "Owing to the shrinkage encountered in trailing cattle to a shipping point," he says, "there should normally be no legitimate reason for taking a further shrink upon settlement, if the cattle had been trailed 10 miles or more."

Carotene And Sheep

MATURE sheep can get along for a much longer time without carotene (Vitamin A) than can lambs, according to experimental work done at the North Dakota Agricultural College Experiment Station. All animal life secures its essential Vitamin A requirement from carotene, which is found in green grass, green alfalfa hay, yellow field corn and similar material.

Tests conducted by the North Dakota Station showed that mature ewes could exist for a year or more "with an almost carotene-absent diet, without fatal effect." Ewes that had been on a low carotene diet for a long time, could conceive, but could not reproduce normally. Lambs, however, became ill in a few weeks without Vitamin A, as a result of one type of infection or another, and soon died.

Authorities in North Dakota say these facts are of special importance because where there is a comparatively short growing season, sheep are pastured most of the year on forage, such as dead grass, poor prairie hay and stubble fields, which lack carotene. A diet of this kind, it appears, does not seem to affect the weight or fleece of the ewes. Moreover, if they get a carotene-rich diet after they are bred, it is reported that they produce and nourish their lambs normally.

Weanling Pig Weights

THE pig raiser in Australia is faced with very much the same problems as his counterpart in western Canada. A pig is a pig whether it is Canadian or Australian bred. Experiments reported in the Journal of the Department of Agriculture of South Australia indicate that a pig that is heavier than others at weaning age maintains that advantage until both are ready to ship to market.

Pigs that weighed 30 pounds at weaning age (eight weeks) weighed 75 pounds at 16 weeks and 150 pounds at 26 weeks. The weaner weighing 40 pounds at eight weeks weighed 100 pounds at 16 weeks and 200 pounds at 26 weeks. The weaner that was up to 50 pounds by eight weeks weighed in at 250 pounds—well over the desirable Canadian bacon hog weight—at 26 weeks of age. This illustration serves to point up the great importance of giving young pigs a good start.

A good start goes back beyond the weaning age and even before the pigs are born, says A. J. Charnetski, Livestock Supervisor, Alberta Department of Agriculture. Heredity, good physical condition of the sow, care of the sow and good milking qualities at farrowing, all have an effect on the weight of pigs at birth and on the subsequent rate of gain. It is also important to prevent any setbacks early in life. Care in the prevention of anemia, creep feeding (with a little skim-milk added to the feed), sanitation and prevention of chills and other ailments, all make for faster, more economical growth and a larger net return from the hog project.

Poisoning Of Livestock

SUCH chemical grasshopper poisons as toxaphene are not a threat to livestock health when cattle and sheep eat hay or grass that has been treated with the poison, according to work done at the North Dakota Agricultural College. Toxaphene sprayed on grass will be poisonous to 'hoppers for several weeks, and there has been some question as to whether or not it would be harmful to livestock.

In order to get the answer to this question a band of ewes was fed hay made from grass that had been given four times the usual dose of 'hopper poison. It did them no harm. Steers proved able to handle hay that had received two or three times the usual dose of 'hopper poison. When it was increased to four times the usual dose, the steers showed some nervous symptoms. However, when normal feeding was resumed the recovery was both fast and complete.

Animals accumulate the poisonous chemical in their tissue, but it is apparently not enough to harm persons eating the meat. The conclusion, based on the work done, is that forage given a normal dose of toxaphene is not harmful.

Persistent Producers Best

DON'T be misled by the cow which produces the most milk in any single day. Such a cow often produces heavily for only a short time and may

not actually produce nearly as much milk in a lactation as her less spectacular, though more persistent sister.

There is an old cow in our herd at present, which we consider about the best producer we've ever had. Judging her according to her daily production one would mistakenly consider her only a very ordinary producer. We've had quite a number of cows exceed her for a single day's production, but with the exception of her two-year-old record, very few have ever equalled her year-after-year production. She is not a particularly heavy feeder, especially of meal, and unlike many others cannot readily be forced for high production. If given more meal than she cares to eat, she will leave it, but I've never known the cow to be sick or off her feed.—Elton Nickel, Ont.

Mastitis And Sanitation

IN this very modern world in which we live, science has devised ways and means of controlling many diseases which formerly cost many human lives, or resulted in costly illnesses. The same thing is true of diseases of domesticated animals. What does not seem to be generally realized, however, is the fact that control of all disease seems to rest primarily on sanitary measures, which offer the best means of preventing infections in the first place.

Many farmers seem to have disregarded this important point in the housing and management of their livestock. It is doubtful whether any of us has ever known of a herd or flock that has been consistently free of disease for a considerable period, which has been forced to live under dirty, untidy or slovenly conditions. Certainly, no one factor is responsible for good health. Ample feed, satisfactory housing, and well-balanced rations are very important, but sanitation and the prevention of infection is the factor which permits these other factors to operate most successfully.

Take for example, mastitis, which is a particularly costly infectious disease in dairy herds. The National Committee on Dairy Cattle has a sub-committee on Brucellosis (Bang's Disease) and mastitis. This sub-committee has declared that the great majority of mastitis cases are due to bacterial infection, which means in the words of the committee that, "the control of the disease can only be achieved by the thorough application of sanitary measures." This means cleanliness, as applied to the cow, stable, utensils and milking methods.

It is sometimes hard to realize that a disease as troublesome and costly as mastitis can arise from several types of bacteria and that each individual bacterial organism is so small that millions may inhabit the surroundings of a dairy herd without the owner being aware of it. Mastitis is certainly one of the diseases where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It does not always follow that sanitation means prevention, but it is certainly true that prevention means sanitation.

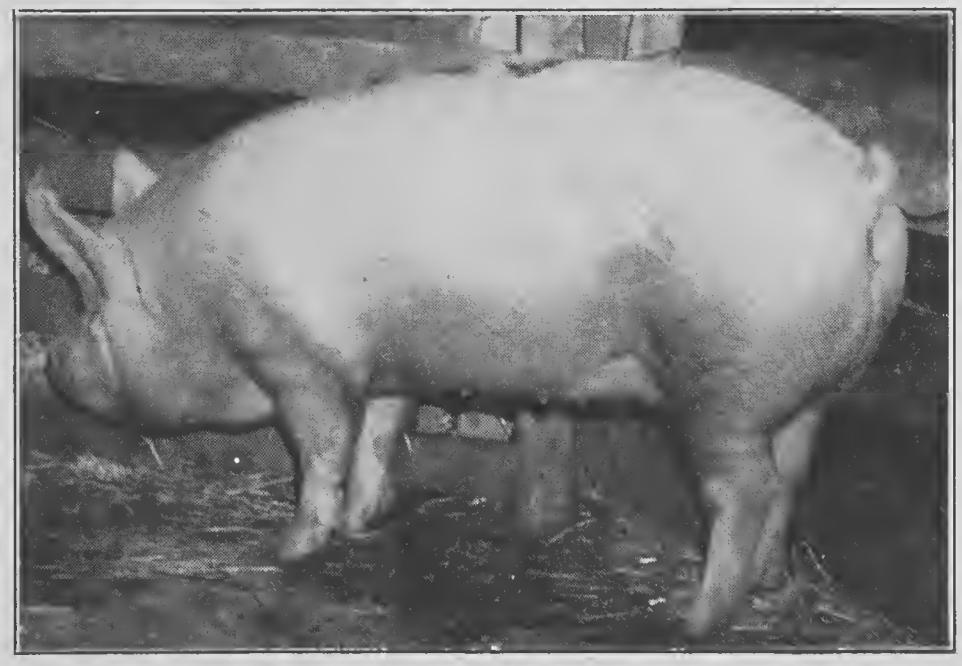
Sows Or Gilts For Breeding?

THERE has been no clear-cut opinion, based on experimental evidence, as to whether it is better to breed from gilts or mature sows. Some farmers follow the practice of breeding only from gilts, but the majority use mature sows or a balance of mature sows and gilts.

The arguments usually advanced in breeding from gilts are that they consume less feed. If they prove barren they can be marketed before they exceed bacon weights, even if they are extra heavies. J. G. Stothart, Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe, Alberta, reports work on the station which indicates that mature sows wean stronger, heavier pigs and average one more pig per litter. Both considerations are important in increasing net returns.

More important than the question of gilt or sow is the quality and capacity of the sows and the choice of replacements. Some gilts will outproduce mature sows, and vice versa. The real objective must be to have only those older sows that have proved themselves, and to select gilts that will improve the average quality of the herd and increase average production. Some producers argue that they do not have the time or facilities to watch the herd or to compare feed consumption by different litters. However, when the pigs from one litter go to market after consuming 500 to 600 pounds of feed while another litter takes 800 to 900 pounds, the consideration becomes an important one, and the choice of gilts from the second litter can soon drain off the profits from the hog business.

The differences will rarely be as marked as these figures indicate. Some litters will grade high, but eat a lot of feed, while others do not grade so well, but eat much less.



Breeding from gilts or sows each have advocates. More important is the probability of improving average herd quality.

When a youngster's upset by "Childhood Constipation"



. . . give gentle Castoria!



"It's the laxative made especially for infants and children."

WHEN your child frets and fusses . . . when he's cross because of "Childhood Constipation" . . . it's wise to know what to do. Give him Castoria.

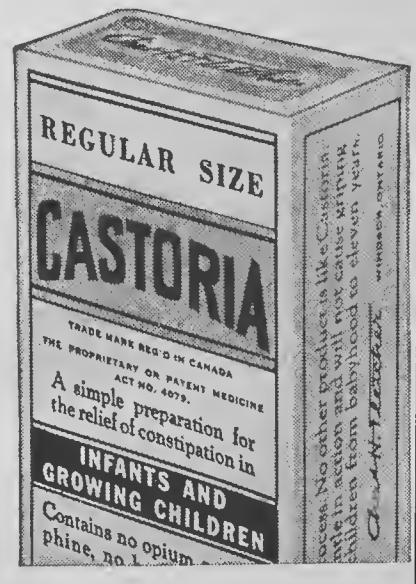
Thorough and effective—yet so gentle, it won't upset sensitive digestive systems.

Made especially for children — contains no harsh drugs, will not cause griping or discomfort.

So pleasant-tasting—children love it and take it gladly without any struggle.

Get Castoria today *at your nearest drug or general store.* Be sure to ask for the laxative made *especially* for children.

Economize! Get the *money-saving* Family Size bottle.

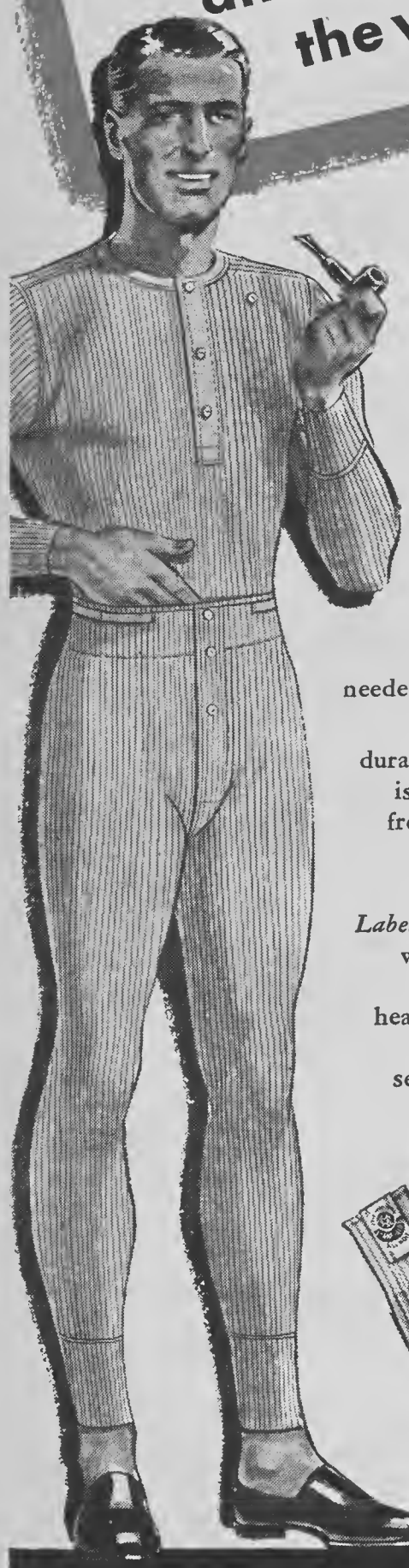


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Always soft, warm and durable, Stanfield's Underwear is designed and tailored for free-action comfort. It won't bind, bulge, or shrink.

Ask to see Stanfield's *Red Label,* made from 100% lambs' wool . . . or Stanfield's *Blue Label,* the same quality in heavier weight. At all leading stores in combinations or separate shirts and drawers.

STANFIELD'S HEAVY WOOL WORK SOCKS
SOFT, WARM AND DURABLE



STANFIELD'S
Unshrinkable
UNDERWEAR

STANFIELD'S LIMITED, TRURO, N.S.

FIELD



Grey-wooded soils can be made very productive, but they must first be rebuilt with organic matter and deficient minerals.

Greater Growth From Grey Soils

The grey soil in the wooded regions of the western provinces is a problem child in the soil family

THERE are a thousand miles of soils extending from Manitoba through Saskatchewan and Alberta and into British Columbia which pose a problem for both farmers and soil scientists. These are the grey, leached soils lying to the north of the prairie region.

The Soil Survey Report, No. 12, prepared by the University of Saskatchewan and the Dominion Department of Agriculture, says of this wide area: "The grey soils are the dominant types in the forest region. Under permanent tree cover, much less soil organic matter accumulates than under grass. Due to the type of leaching, the A horizons (top layers) become grey in color and lose considerable organic matter, clay, and various important plant nutrient elements. The average organic matter content of these soils is lower than that of the brown soils."

As these grey soil areas were settled it became apparent that specific types exhibited characteristic responses to different fertilizer elements. Differences were noted in both nutrients and requirements and their adaptation to cereal and forage crops. Soil surveys indicated that these differences were largely due to soil-forming factors such as parent material, climate and vegetation. In view of these wide variations, and the growing agricultural importance of the soil, it was felt that experimental work should be done in sections representative of large soil areas.

In order to collect a body of knowledge about these soils, additional illustration stations were established. At present they are active at Glaslyn, White Fox and North Makwa in Saskatchewan, and at Chedderville, Fallis, Debolt and Falher in Alberta. Studies are also being conducted at District Experiment Substations at Loon Lake and Snowden in Saskatchewan and Athabaska and McLennan in Alberta. These illustration stations and substations are supervised and directed from the Dominion Experimental Stations located at Melfort, Scott, Lacombe and Beaverlodge.

Twelve tests conducted at such widely scattered points as Chedderville, Debolt, Falher, Progress and Snowden indicated that the inclusion of legumes in the crop rotation increased the productivity of these soils. Wheat yields in the legume rotation exceeded those in the non-legume rotation by 4.2 bushels per acre. Applications of barnyard manure increased the yields even more. Increases in yields of both wheat and hay crops were obtained at Chedderville, Falher, Debolt, Progress, Snowden, McLennan, North Makwa and Glaslyn. On the basis of 18 tests conducted on these stations yield increases of 6.8 bushels per acre were obtained by manure application of 15 tons per acre.

In areas where moisture conditions are favorable, such as Chedderville and Fallis, a response is gained from commercial fertilizers, particularly the sulphur-carrying forms of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers. From averages of five tests, 80 pounds of ammonium sulphate increased hay yields by .94 tons per acre, and 100 pounds of 16-20 increased the yield by .66 tons per acre. On the basis of seven trials the ammonium sulphate fertilized plots outyielded the unfertilized check plots by an average of 9.3 bushels of wheat per acre.

In the Peace River district many of the grey soil areas are underlaid by an impervious subsoil. Where this hard subsoil is encountered, or moisture is limited, the response to fertilizers was reduced. Phosphatic fertilizers did, however, increase yields in these areas by as much as 10 bushels per acre in drier years. The response was most marked on wheat following summerfallow. Some evidence indicated that the greatest effect was gained when the phosphorus was applied in 11-48 or 16-20 fertilizers. None of the fertilizers showed marked effects on alfalfa or sweet clover sods.

General yield increases have been gained by the use of 11-48 fertilizer on the Saskatchewan stations. The average increase in wheat yield at Carrogana was 10.8 bushels per acre, from an application of 30 pounds of 11-48 fertilizer. The station is located on a mixture of clay soils. The increase, with the same application at the Weirdale station, on a Whitewood loam soil, was four bushels per acre, and similar results were gained at Snowden on Waitville clay loam. At White Fox, on Shellbrook fine, sandy

loam no substantial yield increases were obtained through the use of fertilizer.

In general, suggests Ross Cairns, Supervisor of Experimental Station, Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa, it may be concluded that the response to fertilizer applications is largely dependent on a fair moisture supply. Also, there is reason to conclude that deficiencies of plant foods vary with grey soil types. It is established that the grey soils respond well to the addition of organic matter, from the growing of legumes and application of farmyard manure.

Wild Oats Control

THERE is probably no weed that is so hard to clean out of fields and harvested grain as wild oats. It is a companion crop with grain. The longer grain rotations are followed, the more prevalent this weed is likely to become.

Retiring land to grass at regular intervals has proved to be the only permanent remedy, according to 30 years of experimental work at the Dominion Experimental Station, Brandon, Manitoba. No measure of control incorporated within a grain rotation can be guaranteed to give even moderately permanent results.

There are several practices which, if carefully carried out, are useful in emergencies. The first of these consists of shallow tillage of grain stubble in the autumn to cover seeds, and then delaying the seeding of the crop in the spring until the wild oats have sprouted and can be killed. Another technique that has been of some help is the rotation: fallow, wheat, fall rye or fallow, wheat, sheaf-feed oats. Ordinary summerfallow will often help, but it tends to depend on seasons which will encourage growth of the wild oats between cultivations.

Storing Machinery

EXPENSIVE machinery is worth caring for. Rusting and rotting can cause more damage during the winter months than normal wear causes during the working season. To prepare machinery for storage calls for thorough cleaning.

Cleaning will consist of wiping off dirt and hard grease from the working parts and from rubber tires, belts and other places. If chemicals have been near a rubber-tired machine, special precautions should be taken to remove any of the chemical from the rubber. When all parts are clean they should receive a protective coating of paint or lubricant.

To lubricate before storage, soak moving parts and boxings in oil. Fill all grease-fitted bearings to the capacity of the seals, if so equipped. The machine should then be operated for one or two minutes to spread the lubricant around and ensure complete coverage. Precautions should be taken when running the machine to prevent the excess oil from falling on belts or tires. When thoroughly lubricated the machine is ready to be put away.

Machine sheds do simplify the storage problem, but are not a complete solution of it. If the machine is to be kept inside, remove canvases and belts and place them in a dry, dark place which is protected from birds and mice or rats. Rubber-tired wheels

Farm Service Facts

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OIL-BURNING SPACE HEATERS CONVENIENT AND ECONOMICAL

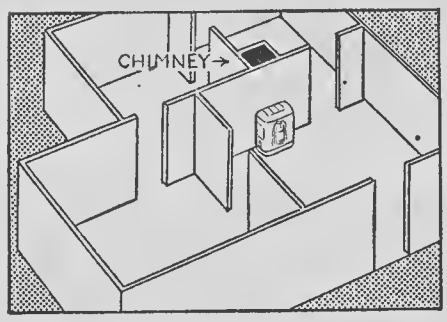
The convenience of oil for heating purposes makes it a popular fuel. Easily stored and easily handled, oil in modern heaters delivers clean, odorless, steady and easily regulated heat with a minimum of operator attention and at reasonable cost. In addition to being highly efficient, the modern heater is an asset to the home as a compact, attractive piece of furniture, many being similar in size and appearance to a radio cabinet.

When planning to install an oil-burning heater, it pays to consult two sources of important information. One is the authority having jurisdiction from whom local regulations governing installations can be obtained. The other is a dealer to advise on the size and type of heater for satisfactory heating service under your conditions. These precautions will pay off in safe and economical heating.



FUEL OIL SUPPLY ASSURED

PLACE HEATER NEAR CENTRE OF SPACE TO BE HEATED



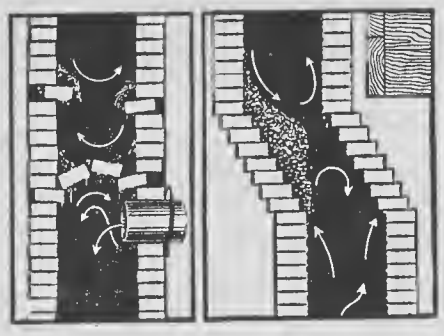
You will save fuel and get better distribution of heat if your space heater is located as nearly as possible in the centre of the space to be heated, and within eight feet of the chimney.

If the heater is placed near the centre of the space to be heated, warm air circulation will be better than otherwise with a saving of fuel. Ordinarily, this will be in the area in which the occupants spend most of their time.

Care to place the heater not too distant from the chimney, less than eight feet, will result in greater burner efficiency, and the fewer the elbows used the freer will be the draft. It is better to sacrifice locating the heater in the centre of the space to be heated than to have too long a lateral vent pipe. The back and the sides should be at least three feet from wall or corner.

A room with a cold drafty floor requires much more heat than one where the floor is warm. If the house is well insulated, you will get better distribution of heat, with considerable saving of fuel.

HOW TO GET PROPER DRAFT FOR HEATER EFFICIENCY

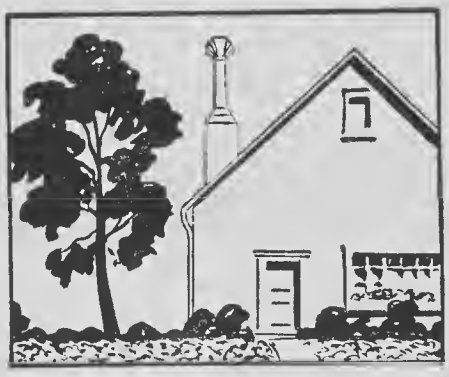


Fallen bricks, accumulation of soot, projection of vent pipes too far into the chimney or any other obstructions will tend to reduce chimney draft, causing loss of fuel and possible burner troubles.

The most important factor in successful operation of your space heater is the chimney. The correct amount of air must be mixed with the proper amount of fuel for complete combustion. The supply of air for the burner is obtained from the draft of the chimney.

To ensure good draft, there should be no obstructions such as bricks blown off the top of the chimney and lodged crossways in the chimney, and no mortar loose between bricks forming cracks and allowing air to enter the chimney. Inside walls should be free of soot with special attention to bends in the chimney and vent pipe to be sure that soot has not collected at those points. Draft will be impaired also if the chimney cleanout door is not closed and tight and if the vent pipe is put into the chimney much beyond the chimney wall.

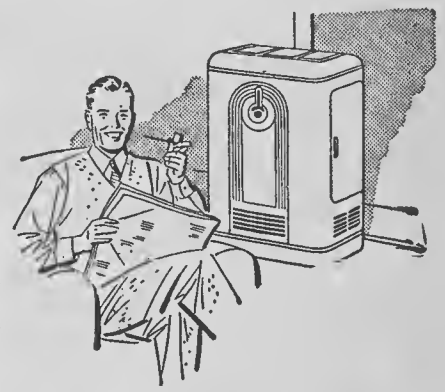
Occasionally chimneys will be found to have downdrafts. This happens when the top of the chimney is lower than the gable of the house or nearby buildings, or when tall trees are close by. The fault may be corrected by extending the chimney 24 inches above the highest point of the house or by placing a vacuum cap on top of the chimney.



Chimneys should extend two feet above the gable, and not be too close to high trees, if down drafts are to be avoided.

USE OF DRAFT DAMPER

Control of draft is by means of the draft damper supplied with the heater and installed in the vent pipe. This is set in the same way as the burner, high, medium and low, so when the burner is high, set the draft high, and when the burner is low, set the draft low. Some trouble may be caused in spring and fall by the burner carboning up. This is the season when heaters are burned mostly in low position, and the trouble is caused by insufficient draft. It can be overcome by setting the vent pipe draft in the medium position with the burner on the low position.

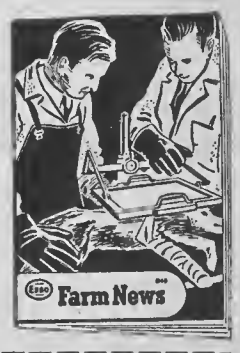


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should be blocked up and the pressure should be reduced to take the strain off the cords and prevent checking of the outside rubber. If windows in the building permit the entrance of much sunlight, cover the tires with bags or canvas since the rays of the sun cause more deterioration than does cold, or normal use. If the machine is left outside, covers for the tires are even more important. A small reduction in the depreciation of valuable machinery will pay good wages for a day.

Plant Food From Fertilizers

THERE is a limit to the plant food in any soil. Even if no fertility is wasted the constant removal of plant foods by cropping will lower the available supply. It finally becomes necessary to provide some form of artificial fertilization if the productivity of the soil is to be maintained. This can be accomplished with the use of manure, green manures, legumes, commercial fertilizer, or any substance containing potential available plant foods.

Commercial fertilizers usually provide plant nutrients in a soluble and relatively available form. The farmer who is going to use these fertilizers should buy according to the analysis that appears on the bag. This analysis is always expressed with nitrogen first, phosphoric acid second and potash third. Therefore, a fertilizer labelled 9-27-9 would contain nine per cent nitrogen, 27 per cent phosphoric acid and nine per cent potash. The remainder that is not accounted for in these percentages is largely inactive mineral particles which act as carriers for the nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. In some cases the carrier consists at least partly of such materials as calcium and sulphur, in which case they also serve to improve the soil.

The buyer can readily see what he is getting by the analysis on the bag. If the soil needs nitrogen it is only sensible to buy a concentrated fertilizer carrying only nitrogen; likewise if the soil lacks phosphates only, his most economical purchase will be a concentrated fertilizer containing only phosphates.

Late Fall Seeding

IT is probable that the lack of success that has attended the efforts of a great many farmers when they were trying to get a good catch of grass seed has tended to reduce the acreage of seeded pasture land. If the soil is dry, or if grasshoppers or other insects are plentiful, it is most difficult to get a catch. Trouble from both of these counts can be reduced by choosing the time of seeding with some care. Late August or early September is often a very good time. Grasses thrive best under cool, moist conditions, and young seedlings should be well advanced before they have to contend with the heat of summer.

Often insects or other conditions make it impracticable to seed in the early fall. Very often it is advisable to plan to seed just before freeze-up, so that the seed will lie all winter and germinate the next spring. This means that the grass gets off to a good start in the spring when moisture is still relatively plentiful and the days are not too hot.

In the drier areas of the south it is now generally accepted that best

catches, especially with crested wheat grass, are obtained by seeding directly into stubble or weed cover of annual weeds. The young seedlings are quite susceptible to heat, and the shade provided by the weeds or stubble protects the seedlings during early growth. The grass should not be seeded more than three-quarters of an inch deep.

For pasture purposes a solid seeding of eight pounds to the acre is advisable. For hay production six pounds per acre, the drills spaced 12 inches apart, gives the heaviest yields. For general purpose use, when the field may be grazed or used for hay, the six-pound rate has been found very satisfactory.

He Likes Alfalfa

WE HAD two severe hailstorms in this district in the summer of 1945. Either storm coming within thirty days, as they did, was enough to destroy the crop. I was somewhat concerned about winter feed for the stock. However, it made some good growth and by mowing the oats and some rank slough hay, I got by for feed the following winter.

I decided, however, to do something about it. I turned the stock in one field near the buildings, let them eat it down, then I gave it a good stroke with the tiller. The ground was moist and it went into the winter in good shape. Early in the spring, I gave it another stroke with the tiller with packers behind and I seeded 150 pounds of alfalfa broadcast with a Cyclone hand seeder. I spread this on fifteen acres.

The seed cost slightly over $50, including one dollar for the inoculation. Then I gave it a light stroke with the diamond harrow and in a few weeks' time I had an excellent stand of alfalfa. I left it until mid-summer, then I went in with the mower—raising the shoes on the sickle guards as high as I could—and cut the weeds and volunteer grain. I left this lie on the ground and did not rake it, to make a cover for winter. The alfalfa came through the winter of 1946-47 in good shape and I had a fine stand of hay in 1947. I cut a heavy crop, raked it and bought a two-horse hay sweep. I would push in six big loads, three against three, for the bottom of the stack, then push in more loads against the sides and fork it up. One man can put up lots of hay in a day, alone, this way; perhaps not as high stacks as when using an overshot stacker, but they were nice stacks at that.

I did not try to cut a second crop as I was afraid to leave the field bare to go into the winter. This, I think, is important, because if cut too late or pastured down in the fall, alfalfa can winter kill. With care it is not lost and one can pasture it early in the spring before green grass comes.

I am delighted with this hay. I like it better than green feed; and while the original cost for seed is high, once started, the work and expense of sowing green feed every spring is eliminated. I am satisfied that most of the humid sections of western Alberta will grow good alfalfa. Some years one can cut two crops. I did in 1948 and the second cutting is something to make a cow blink her eyes with relish at, and even one crop pays well. It usually makes its growth before the hot, dry winds in the summer, and often is cut before disastrous hail storms get it.

The inoculation is quite simple. The inoculant comes in a can and looks something like lampblack, or smut. I put the seed in an old, tin bathtub, mixed the culture with water and worked the seed over with a hoe. It is ready to seed in an hour. I seeded another fifteen acres alongside, in 1948, and while there was a heavy growth of wild oats and volunteer grain, there appeared to be a nice stand last fall.

Another feature I like about alfalfa is I had several patches of Canada thistle in the field, one of them quite heavy, when I seeded the alfalfa. This has disappeared now, whether the alfalfa crowded it out or the continued mowing, I do not know. But I am satisfied that anyone with livestock has a place for a few acres of alfalfa. Even the poultry like the green leaves and eat them readily in the winter, and cattle winter well on it.

The ideal way to handle it, I think, would be with a pickup baler. I tried a few bales this way last fall, but unfortunately I had cut the hay and raked it with a horse rake and the windrows were so wide and heavy the pickup could not handle it. Also, the cost per acre quoted me was rather high. It was $8 for a two-ton per acre crop tied with wire. The tractor sweep seems to handle it well and makes nice high stacks. This is important when one has to dig them out of the snow in the winter.—Harvey Hanson, Balzac, Alta.



Haying in southern Saskatchewan this year was a matter of getting hay wherever it happened to be available.



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HORTICULTURE



Once more the harvest of fruits is over and prairie and northern gardens and orchards face the hazards of winter.

Amateur Fruit Breeder

Experiences of a prairie strawberry breeder

by **A. J. PORTER**

IN MAKING control crosses between strawberry varieties, certain methods must be followed. These methods or principles apply in a general way to the cross-breeding of other fruits. For instance, most of the commonly grown varieties of strawberries have perfect flowers; that is, both the pollen-bearing and the seed-producing parts are present in each flower. To obtain a cross with another variety the stamens must be removed from the flowers of the mother plant before they are mature enough to shed any pollen. The petals are usually removed from the flower of the strawberry plant at the same time, as they are not essential. Then the remainder of the flower or flowers are covered with a paper bag to prevent insects carrying pollen from some other unknown variety to the flowers which have been operated on. Next, nearly ripe stamens are collected from the variety chosen to be the father of the new cross. This is usually done one or two days after the first operation. When these stamens have ripened so that pollen is being shed, this pollen is applied to the waiting pistils of the mother plant and the flower is again covered to keep out insects. Plants grown from seeds produced from such a cross will be of known parentage and will have a mixture of characters inherited from both parents. Such crosses can also occur naturally, the bees carrying the pollen from one sort to another, but in this case only the mother parent is known for certain.

Along about 1935, we were just getting interested in strawberries and had obtained a number of new varieties to try out. Among them were Gem, an everbearer, and what was then a new, high-quality strawberry from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Fairfax. These two happened to be planted side by side. We had also started a small flock of chickens and when the berries ripened the chickens got out and helped us with the harvesting. The remains of the berries damaged by the chickens stayed where they were on the plants. The next spring many of the seeds from these berries germinated and grew; and later in the summer I was able to set out between four and five hundred of the little seedlings.

When moving them, I noticed two plants, right together, with different foliage from the others. These I marked and they later proved to be the only two superior plants in the entire lot. Evidently pollen from the Fairfax variety had been carried to the Gem mother flower. The rest of the seedlings were just mediocre variations of Gem, being self-pollinated seedlings. The two good ones were named Sparta and August Beauty. Both produced large, good quality fruit, much better than Gem. Sparta, many of you may know. If it wasn't for the fact that it is rather late with its fall crop, it would be one of our best everbearers. It gives a good spring crop on soils to which it is adapted, but it is rather particular about soil conditions and, accordingly, reports from growers who have tried it range from that of a man in Winnipeg who claimed he sat in one place and filled a 24-pint crate with Sparta berries, to those who say that it is a failure. August Beauty, on the other hand, proved to be of rather poor constitution, lacking in winter hardiness and very susceptible to root rots.

There is need for a great deal more work to be done in developing strawberries for the prairie provinces. Anyone who wants to raise seedlings will find a lot of enjoyment in watching them fruit. Strawberries are quite local in their habits, succeeding or failing according to local conditions. We will not have many very satisfactory varieties until we produce them under our own conditions. In judging his new seedlings, the beginner is often handicapped by not having knowledge of a sufficient number of varieties so that he can make comparisons. Here are a few points that I look for in a seedling:

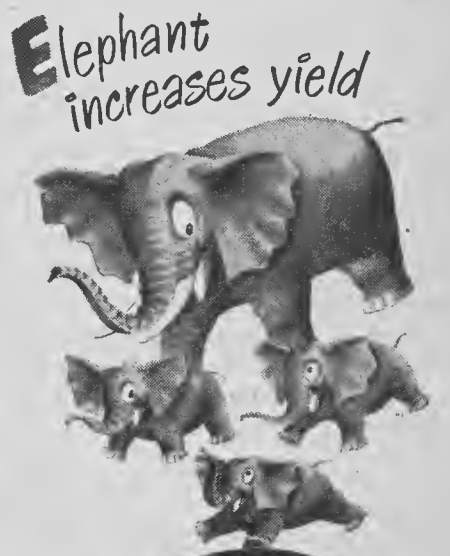
First, vigor and healthiness of plant. This is the base on which all other qualities must rest. The difficulty here is that a variety may thrive on one soil but not on another. Strawberries normally do best on neutral or slightly acid soil. Most of our prairie soils are alkaline, that is, high in lime. It should be possible to develop varieties that will thrive on these soils.

Second, quality of fruit. There is always more satisfaction in growing something of first quality, and while quality must sometimes be sacrificed for the sake of hardiness or disease



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resistance, it should not be forgotten.

Third, productiveness. This is a desirable character but should not be placed first. Many high-yielding sorts are poor in quality. Pixie is a very gratifying exception to this.

Fourth, hardiness of plant. To a considerable extent this is related to point number one. Hardiness is not quite so important in strawberries as it is with tree fruits, as strawberries are low-growing and are easily protected by mulching. It would be very desirable, however, to have high-quality varieties that would stand zero weather without protection.

Fifth, disease resistance. This factor is also closely related to point number one. We have discarded many good seedlings because they had suffered from mildew, leaf spot, root rot or some other disease.

Do not expect to get all of these qualities in one variety all at once. This would be near perfection, which we can't hope to attain. We need many new sorts adapted to local conditions; also suitable for special purposes.

The Farm Lawn

IT IS not always easy to maintain a good farm lawn, especially in the drier areas. The fairway strain of crested wheat grass is recommended for these areas as the most satisfactory grass. The Dominion Experimental Station at Swift Current recommends seeding either in late fall prior to freeze-up, or very early in the spring preferably the former.

One of the important points about crested wheat grass for lawns is that it is a bunch grass and will not fill in the open spaces. This means that very heavy seeding must be given—200 to 400 pounds per acre for lawns. Level the land as well as possible early in the fall and broadcast the seed. When an entire farmyard is being seeded, a light disc may be enough to work up the soil and the seeds can be drilled in if the drill is used in several different directions so as to cover the area as completely as possible. On fall seeded areas an attempt should be made to hold as much snow over winter as possible. Brush can be spread over a small area or used to form small ridges within a larger area. Corn stalks or snow fences will help to prevent blowing and save moisture for early spring germination.

Winter Hardiness Of Fruit

THE best guarantee of survival from winter severity and cold is to plant only fully hardy varieties. Hardiness is the dominant requirement in northern areas, next to the utility value of the fruit.

Undoubtedly the next most important requirement is to try by every reasonable means to have the trees as completely matured and hardened for winter as practicable each year. This means no late cultivation—preferably not after June, in northern districts—and no nitrogen fertilizers which will induce late growth. It may mean a cover crop seeded in July to slow up the growth.

Having trees quite low, so as to take all possible advantage of snow cover is also a partial guarantee of survival, though some added risk is involved with respect to mice and rabbits.

Winter injury results from so many different causes and is exhibited in so many different ways that absolute protection is almost impossible unless the variety possesses complete hardiness for the area. Sun scald, root injury, tip injury and branch injury may all occur as a result of winter conditions. Some injury may result from too much plant food and moisture and other somewhat similar injuries from drought conditions. Overbearing seems to make at least some varieties susceptible to injury during the following winter. In short, the tree best able to withstand severe winters is healthy, well-matured, well-nourished and naturally hardy.

Own-Root Crabapple Trees

PROBABLY the greatest need of prairie orchardists is more own-root trees. When I visit the orchards of my neighbors, I am always astonished at the amount of growth that has taken place from the wild root-stock on which the trees are commonly grafted. Even when the root-stock has a distinct leaf, the gardener usually misses seeing the wild growth, and, of course, when there is no difference, he is helpless.

The gardener can produce own-root trees for himself, this method being somewhat better adapted to home use than the budding and grafting methods commonly used in nurseries. However, even layering takes a "know how," and so a general appreciation of the value of own-root trees is not likely to reduce nursery sales. I am advised by the head of one of our horticultural stations that an own-root tree should be worth double the price of a grafted tree. The roots of own-root trees are often "rough," and will undoubtedly give more trouble to pack and more expense to ship.

Of the crabapple varieties that I have tried to layer, Robin is the only one that is hard to root. I have not tried them all, of course. Yellow Siberian is easy to root, and so is Rescue. It takes longer to root a crab, or apple tree, by layering than it does a currant or gooseberry, and the layered branches may have to be left three years under the ground.

Crab and apple wood will often rot instead of rooting if placed under the ground when dormant. In this respect it resembles the apricot rather than the rose. The apricot seems to be especially susceptible to rotting of the wood that is covered, but the rose is almost immune to it. Anyway, crab and apple branches should not be layered in spring or fall, but in mid-summer, when they are full of life and best able to resist the rotting organisms. A shallow layer is not worth much; a large part of the problem of successful layering is to get the section of the branch that is expected to produce roots into the soil, where it will remain moist. Rainfall, or adequate watering, is essential to successful layering.

Another difficulty in layering crabs and apples is the stiffness of the branches. It is very difficult to get them under the soil without breaking them, or tearing them at the crotches. Old wood of any variety will not layer readily; only young wood, of the current year's growth, or at least the growth of the year previous, should be chosen for layering. The easiest way to produce an abundance of slender branches suitable for layering is to cut the tree down to within four or five inches of the ground, and use the "recovery-growth" branches for layering.—Percy H. Wright.



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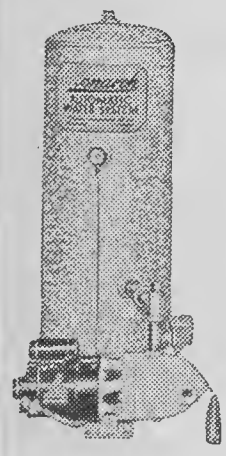
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POULTRY



These buildings were probably once put up for a mixed farm, but the poultry have taken over the whole place.

Is Barred Rock Better?

THE New Hampshire is rapidly becoming well known, and the question is raised as to whether or not it is as good as the Barred Rock. The New Hampshire was originated in the state of the same name, and is a selection from the Rhode Island Red.

In 1945 work was begun at the Dominion Experimental Station, Scott, Sask., by E. Van Nice with the objective of throwing some light on the relative merits of the two breeds. Representatives of the breeds were hatched, brooded and reared together, to keep feeding and environment identical.

The New Hampshire is faster feathering, and while the chicks were growing this breed appeared to be making more rapid progress. However 50 birds of each breed were weighed once per month, and the differences in weight were too small to be considered significant. The cockerels were separated from the pullets, and at approximately six months of age equal numbers of each breed were crate-fed and shipped to a killing plant in Saskatoon. It was found that the gains in the fattening crates and the market grades of the dressed birds did not show important differences, when the results of the four years' work are considered.

Trap nest records showed the Barred Rock pullets to be consistently superior in egg production by about 30 per cent. This was the only difference between the two breeds great enough to be important. Also, this should not be considered as too final as egg production levels vary widely with different strains of the New Hampshire breed, depending whether they are a meat or an egg-laying strain. Plans are being made to do further work with New Hampshires known to be of a high-laying strain.

Something In Reserve

IT is not too difficult a problem to get pullets up to about 50 per cent production at this time of year, but the skill of the feeder will be evidenced if he is able to maintain and increase this rate of lay throughout the winter months. One secret of success is to prevent a drop in mash consumption, which is usually followed by a loss of body weight and a drop in production.

As long as the pullets are gaining a little in body weight and increasing their production, do not deviate from your present feeding program. Be prepared, however, for any change in the condition of your birds. Should mash consumption decline, act quickly if you hope to prevent a slump and a possible neck moult. Commence feeding a wet mash at noon.

This soft feed is the dry mash mixed with warm milk or water and fed at the rate of five to six pounds per 100 birds per day. To accustom the layers to this mash, start with about three pounds per day and increase the amount according to appetite. However, once you have started, continue these feedings until the weather breaks in the spring. This little something in reserve may make the difference between profit and loss on the winter's production.

The early hatched pullets require more watching than the younger ones, because they are usually in heavier production when the cold weather sets in. Because of this, it is harder for them to adjust themselves to the change.

Community Nests

COMMUNITY nests offer a number of advantages over the standard type of nest, says F. J. Higginson, Poultry Inspector, Alberta Department of Agriculture. There is some tendency for the birds to crowd and fight in the single-bird nests, with the result that eggs are frequently broken. Broken eggs may lead to the development of the habit of eating eggs by some birds, and at best will mean a loss of some eggs and the dirtying of others. Community nests have provided a fairly satisfactory answer to the problem of broken eggs and crowded nests.

Community nests are usually built in one of two sizes, five feet by two feet being the fifty-bird size, and eight feet by two feet, with a partition in the centre, being the hundred-bird size.

The first step in the construction of the nest is to build a platform for the nest to rest upon. This should be about 24 inches above the floor for the heavy birds and 30 inches for the light breeds. Small cross-slats are often put on this platform to keep the litter from being pushed around.

The nest itself is built without back or bottom, and set on the platform, the open side being against a wall and the open bottom on the solid platform. If not nailed down it is easy to clean. A box built of plywood is light, and can be readily lifted off the platform.

It is advisable to make the roof of the box steep enough so that the birds cannot perch on it. This also gives a high roof, and overcomes the tendency

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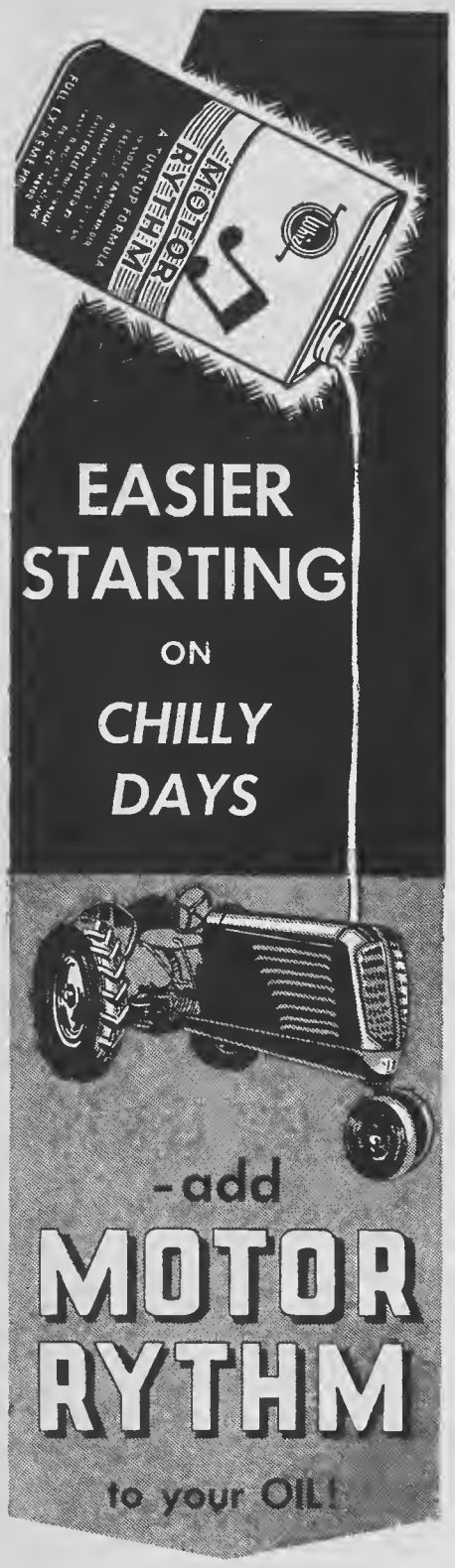
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of the nests to become too warm. When the open side of the box is placed against a wall the birds are prevented from roosting on the peak. The opening into the nest should be 10 inches square, with a small lighting board in front of it to make it easy for the birds to enter or leave the nest. A hinged board is located along the lower edge of the roof through which the eggs can be collected.

Hybrid Chickens

HYBRID chickens are becoming quite a significant factor in the poultry field in the United States. A considerable amount of breeding work is being done at the DeKalb Poultry Breeding Project in Illinois.

Hybrid chicks are the result of a cross between two closely inbred lines, each developed through several generations. Intensive inbreeding reveals both good and bad characteristics, and the breeder's objective is to eliminate bad qualities and through strict selection save the best. Two selected inbred lines are crossed to produce a single cross hybrid. The inbred lines should have qualities that complement one another—each should have the good qualities the other one lacks.

The development of inbred lines that will cross to give a good hybrid bird is a laborious process, involving a vast amount of record keeping, and a lot of trial and error. In the production of hybrid corn, DeKalb breeders produced well over 100,000 different experimental hybrids, but only a few dozen finally proved to be good enough for commercial use. They have found that hybrid poultry breeding follows much the same pattern.

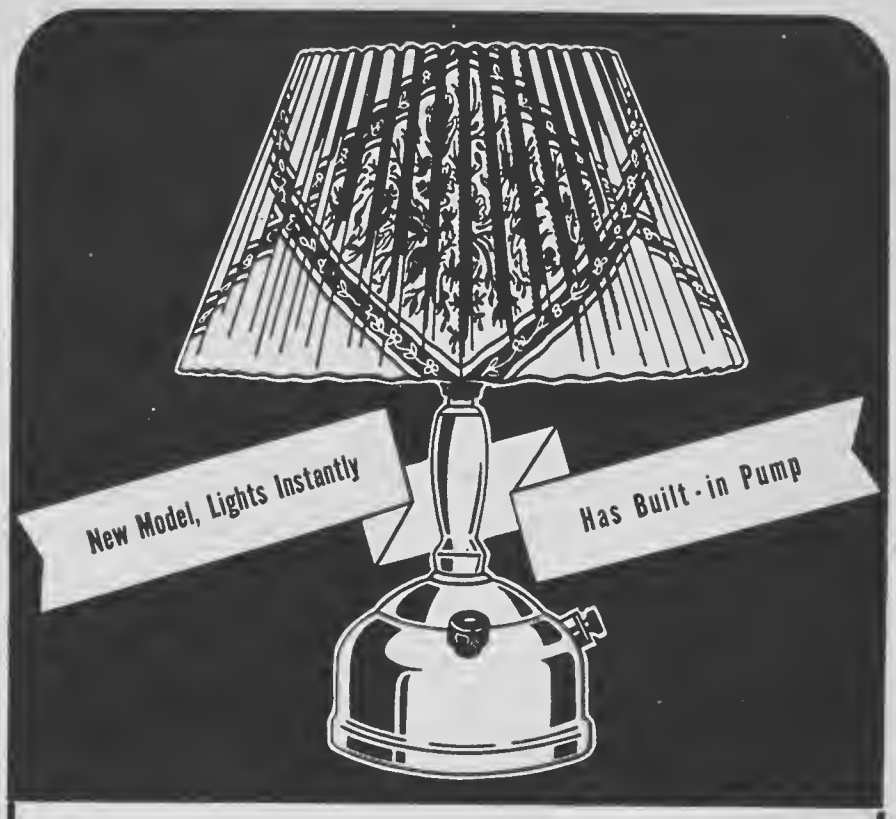
Feed Not To Blame

IT IS not unusual for poultrymen to blame the feed used for losses in the flock. However, in almost all cases, laboratory examination by the Dominion Department of Agriculture has shown such feeds to be perfectly harmless. The usual cause of losses is disease, and the proper course for a poultry breeder to follow would be to have a poultry pathologist examine a few affected birds while they are alive, or soon after death.

In those cases where feed is found to be the cause, it is almost always a nutritive deficiency in the ration used, rather than any harmful ingredients. Deficiencies of vitamin A or D, manganese or riboflavin, may affect the health of birds, but such changes do not occur overnight and an observant poultryman will detect them before they become serious.

Some producers will be erroneously confirmed in their belief that the feed is to blame, by virtue of the fact that they change the feed and the condition appears to clear up. Actually this is insufficient proof, as the disease may have run its course and losses would not have continued, even if the feed had not been changed. Coccidiosis is a good example. The serious cycle of the disease runs for about five days and most birds that do not succumb during that period will recover on the original feed.

The important thing is to get to the root of the trouble as soon as any adverse change is observed in the flock. Usually the best procedure is to get the advice of qualified men. Valuable time can be lost by experimenting with the feed when, as is often the case. disease is to blame.



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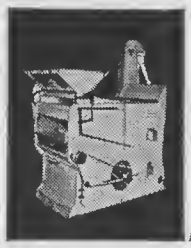
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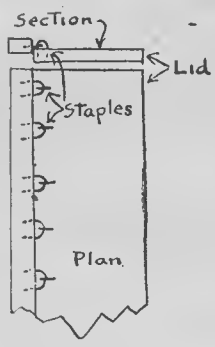
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After-harvest ideas to help prepare for winter

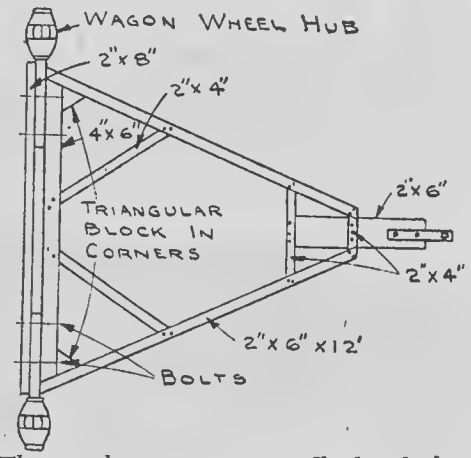
Emergency Hinges



Emergency hinges have often been made from leather straps, canvas or some other flexible material. They can also be made by using two rows of staples—one on the mounting and one on the door or hinge. Drive one row horizontally and the other row vertically, through the "eyes" of the first. For a good job, care must be taken that all staples are put in at the same depth and the same slope.—W.F.S.

Building Mover

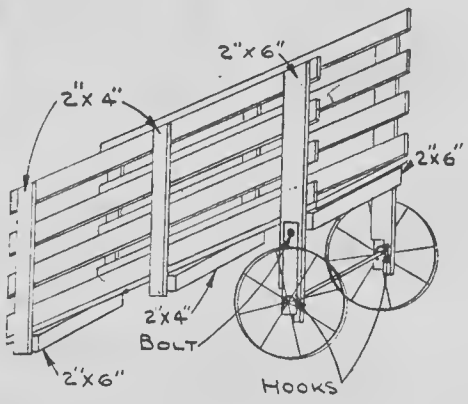
I built this framework for moving brooder houses but find that it serves many other purposes. An old wagon axle was cut in half and extended by bolting two by eight's on each side.



The spokes were cut off the hubs, making a wide bearing surface to carry the load without cutting into the ground. The braces and hitch arrangement are shown in the sketch.—B.H.J.

Adjustable Loading Chute

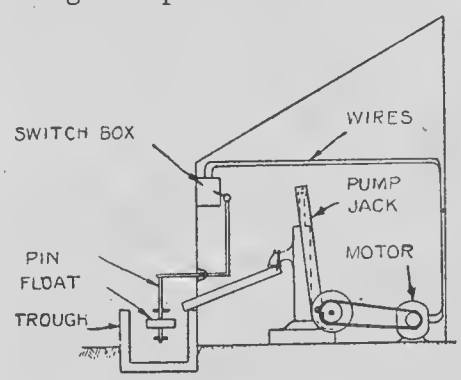
This chute is suitable for loading into a high truck or may be lowered for a wagon or trailer. The legs at the high end are made of two by six's with notches three inches wide and six inches deep cut out of the back, lower



corners. The axle is mounted on two stub two by six's which are hinged at the floor of the chute on heavy bolts shown in the drawing. When in the tall position the axle is held by two hooks from the main legs and when it is desired to lower the chute the hooks are released and the axle allowed to swing back under the chute. The high end will thus come to rest on its legs, the wheels not carrying any of the load. By placing blocks at the wheels, one man can take the low end of the chute and pull or push it to raise and lower the other end. When up on the wheels, the outfit can be pushed around the yard by one person.—B.H.J.

Float-Operated Pump Switch

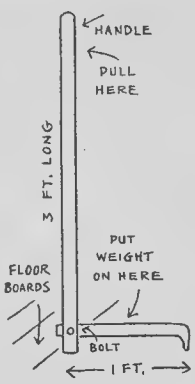
In our barn we have a switch to turn on the pump motor. A float rests on the surface of the water and slides up and down on a thin piece of brass tubing. Two pins or bolts are fastened



through the brass, the lower one to indicate the level at which the motor starts and the upper one to shut the pump off. The brass rod is pivoted so that it has leverage on the switch. The best position of the pins is about eight inches apart with our size of trough. —L.H.

Laying Flooring Tightly

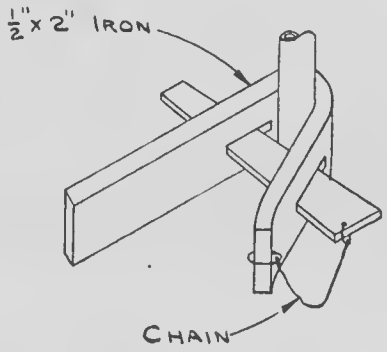
With the aid of a simple lever, flooring may be squeezed up tightly as it is laid. A three-foot angle-iron handle is drilled about three inches from the bottom with a half-inch hole. A one-foot piece of angle-iron is bent down to a sharp point at one



end and is riveted to the handle at the other end. To force up the flooring, butt the handle against the board to be nailed then stand on the point of the short piece to force it into the sheathing. Pull back on the handle, squeezing the piece of flooring up tight while it is nailed in position.—J.M.W.

Well Pipe Holder

I have found this holder to be very handy when pulling a pump or when dropping the pipe back into the well. It consists of a piece of half-inch flat iron, two inches wide and 30 inches long. Heat and bend it in the centre to fit the size of pipe in the well. I drilled and filed two slots in the sides of this bar, making them one and a half inches long and half an inch wide. The wedge is 10 inches long, half an inch wide at one end and one and



three-quarter inches wide at the other. It is a good idea to tie on a piece of wire or chain to prevent the wedge from being lost. With this holder over the hole, I can pull a section of pipe with the block and tackle, tap the wedge into place with a hammer, and hold the pipe securely while I get another bite with the chain.—L.R.P.



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FARM YOUNG PEOPLE



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Clubs In Newfoundland

EVEN though we may tend to think of Newfoundland as chiefly concerned with fish, it is also concerned with agriculture. There is an active Rural Youth Club Movement on the Island. In 1948 thirty junior clubs were organized, and it is expected that this year almost twice that number will be registered with the Agricultural Division.

The general objectives and policies of club work in Newfoundland are identical with those in the rest of the Dominion. The junior club work is designed to provide an opportunity for club members to acquire experience and training in community leadership, public speaking, feeding and management of farm animals, improved methods of producing garden crops, and general farm business. Each club is required to complete at least one main work project each year. Approved projects are gardening, strawberry and raspberry growing, calf, sheep, swine, poultry and egg production and miscellaneous projects.

Platform Conversation

OFTEN the very term "public speaking" will strike fear to the heart. People who are well informed on their subject, who have a message to deliver, and who in private conversation could express themselves very adequately, find when they have to stand up and command the attention of an audience that their knees knock and their message is confused. Public speaking is actually only a conversation in which you are talking to more than one person, but most of us cannot take this view of it.

It is very hard to conceive how much the ability of some farm leaders to make good speeches has moved agricultural organizations ahead. Speaking has certainly been important enough that no junior club or organized farm group can afford to ignore instruction in this important field.

George Elmore Reaman, Professor of English at the Ontario Agricultural College, has recently written a book entitled "Speak the Speech . . ." (McClelland and Stewart, Toronto—paper binding, $1.50), which would be a very valuable reference and instruction book for any farm group.

The book discusses the preparation and delivery of speeches in detail as well as the organization and participation in round-table discussion. Study of this book, combined with practice down behind the barn, or out on the tractor, followed by experience in club or other meetings, should combine to produce a very satisfactory speaker.

A Winter Program

ONCE October approaches, the time seems all too short until snowfall and winter. Farm young folk in the rural communities of western Canada sometimes have a pretty thin time during the winter months. If, as occasionally happens, the roads become blocked with snow for considerable periods of time, this offers a handicap that is difficult to overcome, but in many instances farm young people have themselves to blame if, during the slack period of the year, they do not manage to put in the time both pleasurably and profitably.

In most rural communities there is some form of organization with which farm young folk can identify themselves. Where no organization exists that is suitable to the purpose, the young people of a community can always organize entertainment suitable to their circumstances and conditions. Two or three leading spirits who are enthusiastic can bring about almost any condition they desire. House parties of various kinds are always in order. Skating and sleighing parties are generally easy to arrange. Curling is a favorite winter sport in which the girls as well as the boys could well take part. Dances are a favorite form of entertainment and under proper conditions can provide lots of clean fun.

Interspersed with these purely social gatherings there could be many types of interesting study groups. Where a junior club exists these might be the medium through which a larger social group for winter entertainment and study could be evolved, which would take in all the young folk of the community. There is really very little limit to the pleasure and profit that can be extracted from the winter months, provided someone has enough imagination and the enthusiasm to work up an idea among his or her friends and acquaintances.



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DRY SKIN! Cute blonde Mrs. Sonia Dorsey has unusually dry skin. She says, "I've found Noxzema helps keep my skin soft and lovely. Now it's my regular all-purpose beauty cream."

Mister Chairman

Continued from page 14

occurred. Then someone would have to wait for his money until the Local thought up an idea or two for raising some dollars. Generally, the ideas ran out of much the same mould. They were called by different names, but nearly always had something to do with eating. It might be a picnic, a basket social, an oyster soup supper, or some similar catering to the ever-present hunger of the men. The women (the U.F.W.A.) would do the work and get half the money, and the men (the U.F.A.) would do the paying, the eating, their share of the work of looking after the sport and entertainment, and in return get half the money—and most of the food.

The point is that it worked—generally. On one occasion there was a slump in appetites. We read that "Mr. Hawkinson brought up the matter of Mr. Winge's expenses on his trip to Calgary last summer re legal advice on school board against the contractor building the school house. Expenses were $22.50. Motion made and carried that a good program be held and refreshments served at our next meeting and an admission of 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children be charged and the proceeds to go to Mr. Winge." The proceeds were $9.20, but Mr. Winge didn't suffer more than six months longer, because after the summer off-season, the full amount of his expenses were voted out of the treasury. It was shortly after this that "Mr. Ben Johnson and Mr. G. A. Anderson were appointed auditors of the large cash book that is worrying the secretary."

IT was Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, into whose mouth William Shakespeare put the now-well-known-but-mostly-unused idea that "Brevity is the soul of wit." If it wasn't pretty well established that Shakespeare did his writing quite a long time before one of the early secretaries of the Scandia Local took up the business, one might wonder who got the idea first. Here is the report of a special meeting, which is not only completely self-explanatory, but its choice brevities are so selective that one accustomed to attending farmers' meetings and to hearing the guest speaker, could almost write a detailed account of the meeting:

"This special meeting was called to order by Mr. Hawkinson. Formally opened by the audience singing 'O Canada.' Mr. Bengtson spoke on why we came here, our present situation and our prospects. Mr. Garland, M.P. for Bow Valley, was then introduced. Mr. Garland spoke on immigration, emigration, advantages of Canada, especially Alberta, banks, railroads, national debt, operations of the government at Ottawa, and the future rosy prospects of this country.

"Owing to the general depression in farming and to the nice promises given at the time of purchasing land here, several men were called on to give their opinion of this district, which did not seem rosy.

"After a short political speech, Mr. Garland informed us that in his opinion the solution of the wheat problem was in sticking by the Wheat Pool—that the C.P.R. cannot sustain its present attitude in regard to our contracts, and that it is up to us, with patience and perseverence, to make this country better."

Notwithstanding the commendable brevity of this report, the secretary nevertheless must have stretched verbosity to its limits if it is compared with another report of an address given at the next meeting, during which "Mr. Hawkinson called on Rev. Nordstrom to address the local, which he did."

Making the country better sometimes took a lot of meetings, speeches and patience. Sometimes patience was outraged, as in the matter of mail service to the new community. Stern measures were likely to bring results sooner or later: "Motion made by J. L. Rickett and J. P. Nelson, that the secretary write to P.O. Inspector Bruce at Calgary and say that we want mail delivered here from Brooks the same day it leaves Brooks—or no mail at all. Carried." To the complexities of problems connected with railroad service, roads, telephone connection, and mail, there were added problems connected with livestock marketing. Most of the time the community retained its goodwill and its Scandinavian humor, even when "The local hog shipper resigned his position, but was thanked just the same."

SPECIAL speakers were often invited to address the local. They came from the central office of the U.F.A., from the university, the departments of agriculture and from the dairy, poultry and livestock pools, as these were organized. The appetite of the community for new information must have been keen, but the minutes were regularly held down to what a tired farmer would want to write after a day's work. Here is a sample: "The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bengtson. As there was no business to transact, Mr. Bark and Mr. Baird of Brooks spoke on corn, trees, etc. Motion to adjourn."

Results were slow, but they came. Persistence and patience (sometimes severely tested) won out in the end. Scandia finally got its railroad. It got better roads, a tri-weekly mail service and a better land contract, as well as the settlement—according to an informant who helped to write the history—"of a host of other details that the various secretaries were too polite to tabulate."

The Local did valiant work in its heyday. After the railroad came, it secured a stockyard and weigh scales, as well as an elevator. It sparked the Contract Signers' Association, which led eventually to the co-operative ownership of the Eastern Irrigation District. It encouraged and utilized the Brooks Co-operative Association and organized the Bow Slope Shippers' Association for marketing livestock. It was responsible for scores of good times and pie socials. It helped to build a community. That job well under way, Local No. 904 of the United Farmers of Alberta apparently decided to take a breathing spell. From this affliction it seems never to have entirely recovered, though I am told that it "still functions, but only sporadically."



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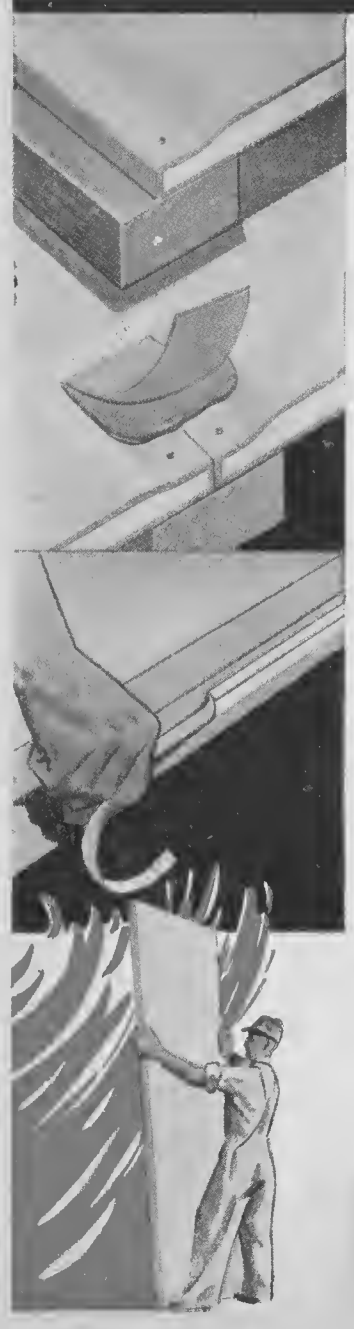
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Both edges of each sheet of Stonebord have a recess as shown at left, which is filled with patented filler and tape, trowelled smooth and flat; then sandpapered. When painted or papered, joints cannot be detected, entire wall is one smooth, even surface. Filler will not shrink or check.

PROTECTED SURFACES

Stonebord is bundled 2 sheets face to face at the factory and the ends firmly taped for shipment. Tapes are easily and quickly removed by patented Rip-tape, leaving surfaces factory clean . . free from marks or scratches.

Any handyman can finish a room using Stonebord. Cuts easily to shape . . pieces to fit around doors, windows and jogs are simply cut with a cross-cut saw, and nailed into place.

NOW . . YOUR ROOMS CAN BE COLORFUL AND MODERN

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Have a talk with your supply dealer today. Tell him the size of your room and ask for an estimate. You'll be amazed at how economically your rooms can be finished. BE SURE TO SPECIFY STONEBORD.

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CALGARY WINNIPEG



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War on 'Flu





Left: Partially incubated egg showing blood-vessels. Right: Injecting virus solution into partially incubated eggs.

International attack on influenza includes work in a Dutch laboratory, where the hatching-egg technique is used to produce effective virus-vaccines. A proper mixture of vaccines will confer immunity against a variety of influenza germs

by **LOUISE HUHNE**

FROM time to time the armies of "General 'flu" received orders from their headquarters in Asia to march into Europe. And all the time an army of doctors and scientists is working hard in laboratories to invent new weapons against the invader. The defense is internationally organized, and plans are continuously being developed towards a more effective form of counter-attack.

This year, in the small Dutch town of Weesp, a special staff of scientists, working under the supervision of the government, produced a new vaccine which may defy the annual invader. The new method had been derived and improved from British, American and Dutch research.

The greatest difficulty in fighting influenza lics in the fact that there are several different types of virus which attack human beings. In order to put up an effective defense it is therefore necessary to immunize prospectivc victims with several different virus-vaccines and this means ensuring that the right vaccine is available in large quantities whenever necessary.

The preparation and production of these vaccines is complicated. The disease germ, whether virus or bacteria, has first to be taken from an influenza patient. Only then can it be isolated and cultured. The germ needs special food, and a chicken embryo, i.e. an incubated egg, has proved to be the best.

The egg is incubated for ten days, and under strong ultra-violet light it is marked where the air-space is found and the developing blood-vessels. Two small holes are made in the egg-shell; one at the "air-space," the other at a spot where no blood-vessels are found, but where, nevertheless, living tissue is developing. Through the latter hole 0.1 cubic cm. of a diluted solution of the virus is injected. The eggs go into the incubator for two more days, in which time the virus multiplies about one hundred thousandfold.

From the incubator the eggs are put into the ice box in order to destroy the embryo chicken. The liquid virus solution is then taken out, purified and brought to the right strength. Chemicals are added in order to render the virus harmless. By mixing several influenza-virus-vaccines, so prepared, the standard influenza-vaccine can be obtained.

Numerous controls now follow; sterility has to be assured, the quantity of the virus present in the solution is measured and the operation force "Immunity" tried out on animals. The vaccine is always harmless to human beings, even to those who are very sensitive to influenza. Only people who are allergic to eggs may have trouble with the vaccine, as so far no one has been able to separate the solution entirely from albumen.

This counter-attack on the influenza-invader has not yet been made on a large scale as the production could not meet the demand. Experiments have been made on groups of workers and the results are extremely hopeful. But only international co-operation can deal with the problem. Otherwise it is not known in time what special kind of influenza is marching from one country to another, and consequently there is not time enough to prepare and produce the right vaccine in such quantities that entire populations can be made immune to the attacker.

In 1947, an international influenza research was established in Copenhagen, with its headquarters in London and branch offices in several countries. It is the task of each of these branches to locate the virus, to determine its kind and to inform London. The epidemic which spread over Europe recently proved that the international co-operation is still far from perfect. Had the influenza been of a more dangerous nature, the people who are fighting against this illness would have been too late. But the next vaccine found in the Dutch town of Weesp may prove to be a milestone in the history of fighting the 'flu germ.

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He'd want a McClary coal and wood range . . . because he would want the very finest cooking, baking and roasting results.

He'd want McClary convenience . . . always a plentiful supply of hot water, and heat-giving comfort on nippy days.

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"12 people, hungry as hounds. That's who I cook for," Mrs. Zimmerman says. "Roy, *ten* children and myself. The youngsters help me, but Jergens Lotion helps us all. Keeps away roughness that comes from cooking."



"You'd think we ran a laundry," she laughs. "Folks say I wash clothes by the acre. How do I keep it up? By keeping my hands limber! And that means smoothing on Jergens often. It's absorbed right away."



Enough dishes for a church supper—every day, too! "The girls help me there," she adds. "When we're tidied up they need a little Jergens Lotion to keep away chapping. I keep a bottle near the sink."



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B.C.'s Wait-And-See Period

Some current activities belie the dire prediction of coming trade difficulties

by **CHAS. L. SHAW**

"WHO'LL buy my apples?" is the somewhat plaintive cry of the Okanagan Valley this fall, and the Okangan would like nothing more than a few eager takers because this has been one of those big-crop seasons, and the orchard country sees the prospect of an out-size surplus unless some nice, fat orders come along.

By the time this is read, of course, there may have been a pleasant windfall. After all, the United Kingdom's order for 435,000 boxes early in September hadn't really been expected. The word had gone out that, owing to dollar troubles, Britain would not be able to afford to buy anything like apples from the overseas hard-money area. Consequently the order, representing about $725,000, was an agreeable surprise even though it is not to be compared with the business that used to be done a few years ago. It was at least a token of British sentiment towards the Canadian market, and the growers welcomed it as such.

But British Columbia's economy cannot be sustained for long on token orders from the market that used to be regarded as the mainstay for the province's all-important export business. The United Kingdom has been forced to curtail buying of lumber, canned fish and metals, and the province's industries haven't yet found a dependable substitute for the British buyer. For that reason British Columbians watched with more than usual interest the conversations at Washington regarding Britain's overseas purchasing prospects.

This is a sort of wait-and-see period for British Columbians. Some big companies, already hit by slackening business, have started to trim sail by reducing their staffs or working hours. Others are maintaining their usual tempo, hoping for an upturn.

There was good news on the labor front when loggers and sawmill workers reached an agreement to continue on the same wage basis as has been effective for the past year. If such an agreement had not been reached, British Columbia's No. 1 industry would have faced another crippling paralysis with its 32,000 workers walking out on a strike of indefinite duration.

THE woodworkers' unions had put in an application for an increase in wages and other concessions. The operators, claiming that they would have difficulty meeting even a continuance of present charges in view of the market and price slump, countered with an application to reduce the wage scale to something equivalent to the 1947 list. The issue went to a conciliation board and a majority finding favored the operators, but the unions balked.

For a while the outlook was gloomy, but at the eleventh hour the two groups got together and decided to continue at the present wage basis for at least another year. The basic wage, by the way, is $1.08 an hour, considerably more than what is paid in the forest industries elsewhere in Canada.

A prolonged strike would have been serious at this time. True, the demand for forest products is not as great as it was a few months ago, due largely to curtailment of buying by the sterling area, but the sawmills have been trying to break into the United States market and increase their share of the Canadian market, and it would have been difficult to gain such an objective if they could not count on a continuing supply of raw material.

In addition, a strike so far-reaching as one in the forest industries on the west coast invariably spreads beyond its original scope and eventually creates ill feeling which gradually works into other industrial channels to no one's benefit but the professional trouble-makers.

THERE was a new factor involved in this controversy over a logging strike this year. A few months ago, the radical Communist wing in the woodworkers' union was rooted out and control passed to a more reasonable faction. However, labor politics being what it is, there was a feeling that the new group in power should demonstrate its value to the rank and file by asking for and insisting on a wage increase, just to show that it was as adroit in such manoeuvers as its left-wing predecessors had been. However, when it became apparent that labor gains could not be achieved without a fight and that in the end labor probably would make no appreciable gains, the new union leaders showed their good judgment by accepting the compromise and ending the danger of a walkout that would have done no one any good.

Employment has been holding up surprisingly well in the coast province, and settlement of the forest industries quarrel has given the situation considerable more stability. Construction has been particularly active, and even downtown business buildings are being erected in Vancouver and some of the larger centres. This is a development that has lagged since the war owing, in part, to the high cost of labor and materials. But these disadvantages have been offset by the imperative demand for office space. Demolition has been keeping pace with new construction in some sections of Vancouver, and visitors who are seeing downtown Vancouver for the first time in six months or more are viewing the southwest corner of Granville and Georgia Streets with amazement and nostalgic sorrow; for the old Vancouver hotel that had served so many celebrities in its day is merely a pile of rubble.

The demolition crews have done their job speedily and effectively, and the scene they have left behind not only has created a gaping space in the centre of the metropolitan area but a question as what will eventually take the place of the abandoned hostelry. The property belongs to the T. Eaton Co. Ltd., which has announced plans to build a modern department store there, but Vancouver people are still eagerly awaiting the announcement as to when this will come to pass.

The retail trade on the coast has entered into a more competitive situation and the market is gradually passing from the sellers to the buyers, but

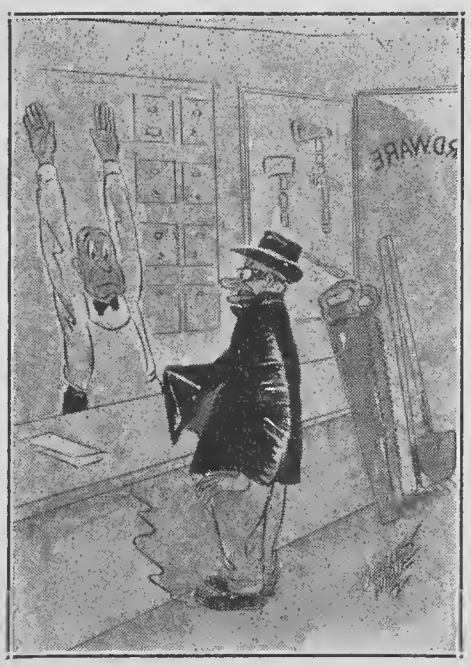
the visitor to Vancouver might wonder whether many of the storekeepers recognize this fact. Vancouver and its visitors are still inconvenienced by the mid-week closing of all stores other than those selling drugs and a few specialized lines. The closing is not just for half a day, but for all day Wednesday—an unprecedented thing for a city of Vancouver's size, and needless to say it has not favorably impressed tourists who arrive for a short trip planning to spend time and money in Vancouver shops only to find that the doors are bolted. The mid-week closing became effective during the war years when there wasn't much merchandise to go round and it seemed to be a patriotic saving to reduce store hours. Such justification no longer exists, and a movement on the part of some merchants to kill the closing law seems overdue.

VANCOUVER'S Pacific National Exhibition was another big success this year, although attendance was unaccountably less than in 1948. The most hopeful aspect of these exhibitions is their demonstration of the growing interest in farming by the young people. Every season sees more and more girls and boys entering stock for competition in the various classes and it is obvious that the young exhibitors are conscientious farmers who know what it is all about, or are rapidly learning.

Many of the young crop of British Columbia farmers are of foreign extraction, some of them newcomers to the province. But they have brought with them a love for the soil that was born in them in their homeland, and they are proving a genuine asset to a country whose primary need is more people, especially more people who have it in them to make good on the land.

Hendrik van Malenstyn, a Dutch youth fresh from the Netherlands, was one of the 382 junior farmers exhibiting stock at the Vancouver show. He is only 13 and has been in this country only a couple of years, but he has already picked up a few words of Canadian slang which he reels off with a quaint Dutch accent. "I stay here, sure thing," says Hendrik, who is already known as Hank by his friends. "This is fine land."

Hendrik (or Hank) is typical of many of the young farmers of British Columbia, and the province could do with a great many more of them.



"Okay, Bud! Hand me over a revolver and some shells, quick!"

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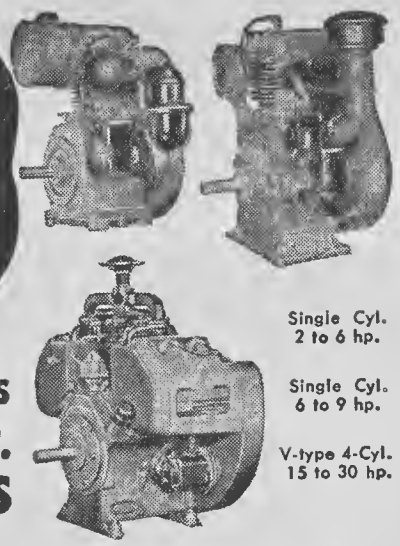
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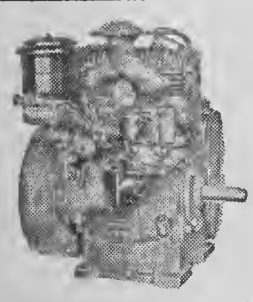
V-type 4-Cyl. 15 to 30 hp.

40% of all Carburetor Type Engines Made During 1947 in 2 to 30 H.P. Range were WISCONSINS

According to an official bulletin issued on April 22, 1949 by The Bureau of Census, U. S. Dept of Commerce (Preliminary Industry Report, Series MC-31D, covering the production of Internal Combustion Engines in 1947), 4 out of every 10 carburetor type engines within our power range, were produced by Wisconsin Motor Corporation. Here are the actual figures:

Cubic Inch Displacement	Horse Power Range	Total Number of Engines Built for Resale	Total Wisconsin Models Built for Resale	Percentage of Total Built by Wisconsin
11 0 to 20 9	2 to 5	173,964	90,106	51.7%
21 0 to 50 9	5 to 9	174,746	63,632	36.4%
76 to 100 9	15 to 22	56,324	40,305	71.6%
101 to 175 9	25 to 40	123,029	18,131	14.7%
TOTALS		528,063	212,174	40.2%

The summary given above includes data received by the Census Bureau from 134 engine manufacturers. The groups given here does not include automotive, aircraft and outboard marine engines, built in 1947 for resale as separate power units or engines for use as original equipment by various equipment manufacturers for their own use.



Since these amazing figures were recorded, we have added two new air-cooled models, the TE-2 cylinder, displacement of 45.9 cu. inches and the TF-2 cylinder with a displacement of 53.9 cu. inches. H.P. range from 8.5 to 13.3 for these models.

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It is of special interest that Farm Service provides the greatest of all markets for Wisconsin Air-Cooled Engines! More of these engines are used for powering Farm Equipment in the 2 to 30 h.p. range, than any other make of engine. Heavy-duty power work requires the kind of heavy-duty construction that goes into all Wisconsin Engines—for "Most H.P. Hours" of on-the-job service.

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MANITOBA: Winnipeg
Mumford-Medland Ltd.
576 Wall St.

ALBERTA: Calgary
Bruce Robinson Electric Ltd.
9th AVE., & 4th St., West

Edmonton:
Bruce Robinson Electric, Ltd.
10125-102nd St.

NOVA SCOTIA: Halifax
Construction Equipment Co., Ltd.
135 Lower Water St.

NEW BRUNSWICK: Fredericton
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"Boo-Jees" are packed with a special drying agent to protect their penicillin content and do not require refrigeration.

Two strengths are available:
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No. 2901 — 25,000 Int. Units Penicillin. Package of 6.... 2.50

Available from your druggist or veterinarian.

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600

Shadow Of The Pine

Continued from page 12

She clasped her hands about her knees and rocked to and fro. "But so late, Sveri." She looked out over the meadow, then toward the pine. "Olaf wouldn't like that. He always said chicks should come early." She stopped abruptly. Color suffused her cheeks as she remembered when Olaf had said it first. From under lowered lashes she looked at Sveri, but he was not one for subtleties. She hurried on.

"I've had such a time with the calf. He won't drink from the pail, Sveri. He spills the milk."

"Like all calves," he agreed. He saw the pail inverted upon the corral post and got up slowly to get it. She followed him. "He will drink," he said, pleased to do something for her.

THEY took the pail and cornered the reluctant calf. Alma held the pail of milk and Sveri herded the calf toward it. He straddled its neck and with his big hand thrust its head within inches of the milk. It twisted and turned, but Sveri's knees tightened against it and Alma dipped her fingers into the milk to entice it to lick them. Sveri pushed its head lower, and it drank, greedily. Alma laughed and looked up into Sveri's face.

"You need a man to do for you," he said.

"Not any man," she smiled, "just you, Sveri, until he comes home and then we'll both need you."

He released the calf and it backed away swiftly. He stood facing her over the upturned pail. "You still think he will come back, Alma? You are waiting yet?" He turned away to gaze far over the meadow, not daring to look into her eyes, yet listening with all his might for the words he knew she could not speak.

The toe of her oxford designed flowers in the dust. "I shall always wait for him, Sveri." She followed his gaze into the darkening green of the distant fields. "Five years is not so long to wait when I can wait forever. Others have returned. He will come back." Her eyes searched the lines of Sveri's face. "I know what you are thinking. The letter was official. They say he was—killed—over there, but he'll come back, Sveri. He must come back."

"You have medals for what he did." He regretted the brutal words as he said them, yet he hoped the shock of them would waken her to the futility of waiting.

She placed her hand upon his arm and smiled into his eyes. "You mean well, Sveri. I understand." She lifted her gaze to the pine tree. "I don't need his medals to know what he did. Remember what he used to say? 'That old pine tree out there is my totem pole. All the things I've ever done and all my hopes are in that tree'."

"I remember."

It was under the tree that he asked me to marry him. It was to be near it that he had his house here, and when he left, Sveri, it was there he said goodbye."

They walked back to the house. When she remained silent, Sveri ventured to say, "He was like that pine tree. Straight with everyone. A man couldn't have a better friend than Olaf."

"I'm glad you said that," she replied. "You know, Sveri, when Olaf left for overseas he told me that if I should ever feel lonely for him, to look up at the pine and he would know I was thinking of him and he of me. He laughed when he said it, but do you know, when I look up there, I don't feel lonely any more."

He remembered the letter he had for her. She took it as she always did, without a word and put it away. Until she had opened it she could always hope that it would be a message that Olaf was not lost to her, that it hadn't been he who had died of wounds on the Caen front.

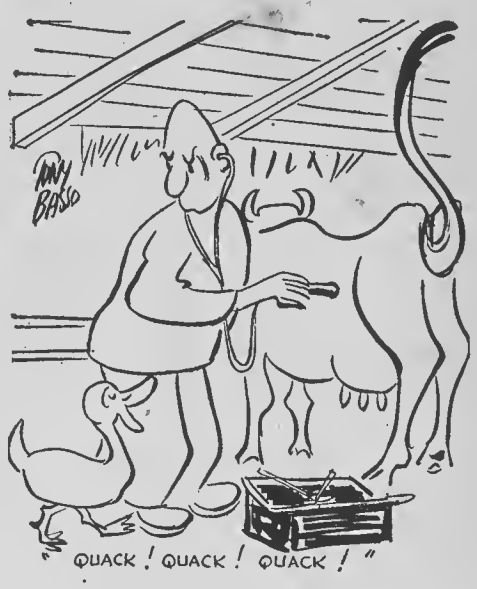
Sveri rose from the step to go home. She went with him to the gate. He looked up at the pine. "Alma, if you find yourself still lonely sometime, when you look up there, won't you remember that I'm waiting too?"

She pressed his hand in her own. "I know, Sveri. Olaf could have no better friend. Sometimes I feel that he must come back because he never really went away. The Olaf we knew, his spirit I mean, lives on in the tree he loved."

"And if he should not come back, Alma, will you have me then?"

She raised herself upon her toes so that she could put her lips close to his ear. "Yes, Sveri. There could be no other if he should not come back. But he will, Sveri. He must! He must!" She turned and ran lightly to the house, leaving him standing in the shadow of the pine.

His way home was less lonely because of her words. He thought of them, hearing in memory the sweet



huskiness of her voice, the tremulous pathos of her belief in Olaf's return. And he thought of the pine tree. Slowly the idea came to his mind that it was the tree alone which embodied her faith, and that so long as the tree was there, her belief that Olaf lived, would never waver. He looked back over his shoulder, and there on the skyline was the pine tree with the rising moon behind it. He loved it for Olaf's sake and yet, seeing it between him and her, shutting out the twinkling light of her window, filled him with frustration and dismay.

THAT night he could not sleep for thinking of the tree. He lay staring into the darkness and the pine tree grew more formidable with the passing hours. He tried to push it from his mind, tried to think only of Alma's eyes lifted to his, of her hands upon his shoulders, but the pine was always there. He seemed to hear Olaf saying once more, "That tree's been there a long time. I'm going to keep it there." But Olaf was gone. The tree could go too. A few heavy blows of his ax would be enough. No sooner had the thought come into his mind

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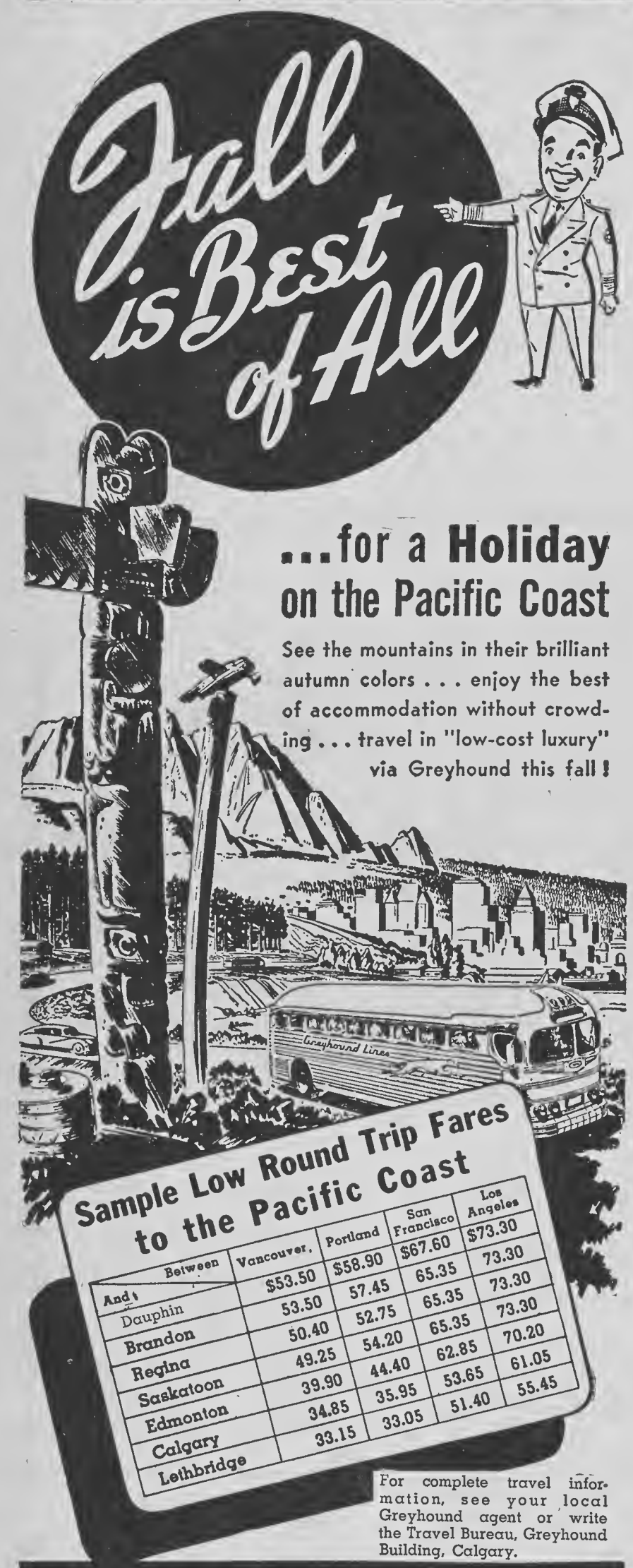
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With patented single plate rotor — an exclusive Wetmore feature. Only one moving part—only two bearings. Efficient, simple and trouble free. It also has the patented knife-type screen, a proved Wetmore innovation. Replaces regular type screen for uniform control of hay and roughage textures.
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than a feeling of guilt and unworthiness of Olaf's friendship thrust it out.

He thought of Olaf. His mind ran back over the years when they had lived together in this cabin of his, when they had worked together, and were as one in all they did. They had loved Alma together. Olaf in his debonair, carefree manner, and he with stolid faithfulness. Then, one day Olaf had said, "Let us ask her, Sveri, which one of us she'll have." And when he would have had Olaf speak first, Olaf had laughed and replied, "No, I shall wait for you."

So he had asked her. One beautiful morning, after the church service, when he thought that she had looked at him and smiled more than ever before, he had said, "Alma, will you marry me?" Bluntly and straightforward because that was his way. She had cried a little. He remembered how the tears had been wet upon her cheeks. Then it was Olaf's turn.

He had been glad for Olaf's sake, because Olaf was his friend, but now as he lay thinking of it, he wondered if the pine tree had not had something to do with it all, even then, for Olaf had taken her riding and had gone with her into the hills. They had rested their horses beneath the pine and he had shown her the place where he would build his home with its picket fence and its path to the door. Then as the moon came up behind the hills, he had held her close to him, under the pine, and she had not cried.

So it came to pass that Alma had married Olaf and had gone to the city with him, and for their present Sveri had finished the house. He had built it for them, a little white house with a picket fence and a path to the door, and he had done it with love in his heart because Olaf was his friend and Alma the only woman he would ever love.

Then the war had come and he had gone at once to enlist. Olaf had followed and they had planned to go together, but it had not been possible after the physician had discovered the mastoid of his boyhood, and Olaf had left for overseas alone.

THE heat of summer deepened the haze in the hills, and behind the beaver dam the water had become stagnant and brown. The air simmered in the sun. Night and morning, Sveri coaxed his reluctant windmill to fill the trough with water for his cattle and sheep. Days passed without promise of rain. In the fields, the wheat, now tinged with yellow, hastened to lift immature heads to the rainless skies, while the alfalfa lay brown and sere under the relentless sun. The pine tree, alone, was aloof and green, and sometimes, looking at it, Sveri thought it grew taller and greener day by day.

One evening he did not find Alma at home. He called and searched for her until he saw her at the far end of her meadow. She was struggling to mend a break in the fence, and the barbed wire had cut her fingers unmercifully. He hurried to her and while his big, strong hands pulled the wires together, she told him of the break.

"It was Mike Rogal's cows," she explained. "He went to town and did not leave water for them."

"He is a poor farmer and a worse neighbor," he rejoined.

"The poor things were crazy with thirst and broke through the fence." She watched him a while in silence. His strong, capable hands fascinated her. "You are strong, Sveri," she remarked. He smiled, but did not answer.

"I let them drink at the trough, but when I tried to drive them out they would not go." She hesitated before saying, "The bull came after me."

"The bull!" His voice hardened. "Rogal shouldn't have the bull with the herd." He turned to her. "He didn't hurt you, Alma?" His face was a picture of concern.

"I ran around the straw stack and into the yard," she hastened to assure him, "but I was frightened, Sveri. He turned on me so suddenly."

He stapled the last strand of wire with a vicious blow of her hammer. "How did you get them out, Alma?"

"Mike Rogal came over at milking time."

"He didn't fix the fence?"

She felt the anger in his words. "He said I should have a legal fence. What did he mean, Sveri?"

He gathered her tools. "I'll ask him, and also why he shouldn't help me to build one."

They walked to the house where, as she sat upon the couch, he bandaged her fingers. She marvelled that he could be so gentle. "You are not going to see Mike Rogal?" she asked him.

He looked out at the pine tree. "Olaf would see him," he said.

She followed his gaze to the tree. "'Yes," she whispered.

He walked to the window. "Why don't you go to the city, Alma? Wait for him there!" His longing and frustration vied with defiance in the blue of his eyes. She had not seen him like this ever before. She was a little afraid.

"No, Sveri. I must stay here."

"Because the pine tree is here. Tell me, Alma. It's the pine tree, isn't it? That's why you wait?"

His insistence was borne upon her. She faltered. He was staring out of the window now, his broad back toward her, his hands on the window frame. "I—I don't know, Sveri. I think so. It seems that Olaf is here when I look at the tree. It meant so much to him. You know that, Sveri."

"I know that." He dropped his hands. His voice grew soft. "I have been thinking of Olaf. I was his friend and I knew him, I believe, Alma, better even than you." She stared at him in amazement. He raised his voice a little as though he were speaking to someone beyond the shadow of the pine. "If he were here he would let nothing stand between those he loved and what they wanted most, not if he had the power to remove it." He looked out upon the pine. "I think that if Olaf could know, wherever he may be, that if his pine tree stood between me and the woman I love, he would tear it, root and all, from the ground."



"I'm glad it's Mabel. She dearly loves surprises!"

She hid her face in her hands, not daring to look at him. This was not Sveri. This was not the man who in five blunt words had asked her to marry him. She could not know that night after night he had lain awake until the words had built themselves into his soul. She only knew that he had shaken her like nothing else, except the spirit of him who had gone. It were as though Olaf, himself, had spoken.

She did not know when he left. Only when the lonely minutes had brought darkness into the room, did she raise her head to find that he had gone, and when she looked outside for him, she saw only the pine tree, tall and aloof in the night. She ran to it and with a cry, flung her arms about its sturdy trunk. "Olaf," she sobbed, "tell me, Olaf, tell me what I am to do!"

THE following evening, on his way home from Mike Rogal's, Sveri saw the black clouds rolling up behind the hills. There was not a breath of wind. He looked toward the pine tree and saw its branches stirring in a breeze he could not feel. The distant roll of thunder filled the hills. He thought of Alma and her chores and quickened his steps. Leaving the dusty road, he strode off over the fields, along the beaver dam, and beyond the parched alfalfa. A path, worn by the aimless hoofs of cattle, led upward through willows to a ridge not far from the little white house and towering pine, and it was along this path that Sveri made his way. Night, hastened by the coming storm, darkened the hills and the first fat drops of rain splashed into the dusty fields.

He was but a short distance away when the lightning split the clouds apart, spilling their rain upon him. Thunder tore through the hills and roused the wind to roaring. In demoniacal fury it tore at the willows and scattered the straw stack then, twisting about, swept down upon the pine. For one brief moment Sveri saw the mighty tree standing tall and sturdy, the wind singing in its branches like Olaf's laughter of old. Then, with a crash, it fell before the raging wind.

Sveri's cry rang out above the storm. He broke into a run. Around the fallen tree, and down the path, he raced. He pushed open her door.

She was kneeling by her window. Her eyes fixed upon the tree and she did not turn nor speak when he came in, not even when he placed his hands upon her shoulders.

Hours later when the storm had abated and the moon shone from behind scudding clouds, they went to the fallen pine. They stood together in silence, looking down upon the tree, and when she spoke, Sveri thought how soft her voice was, how like one in church.

"He's gone, Sveri."

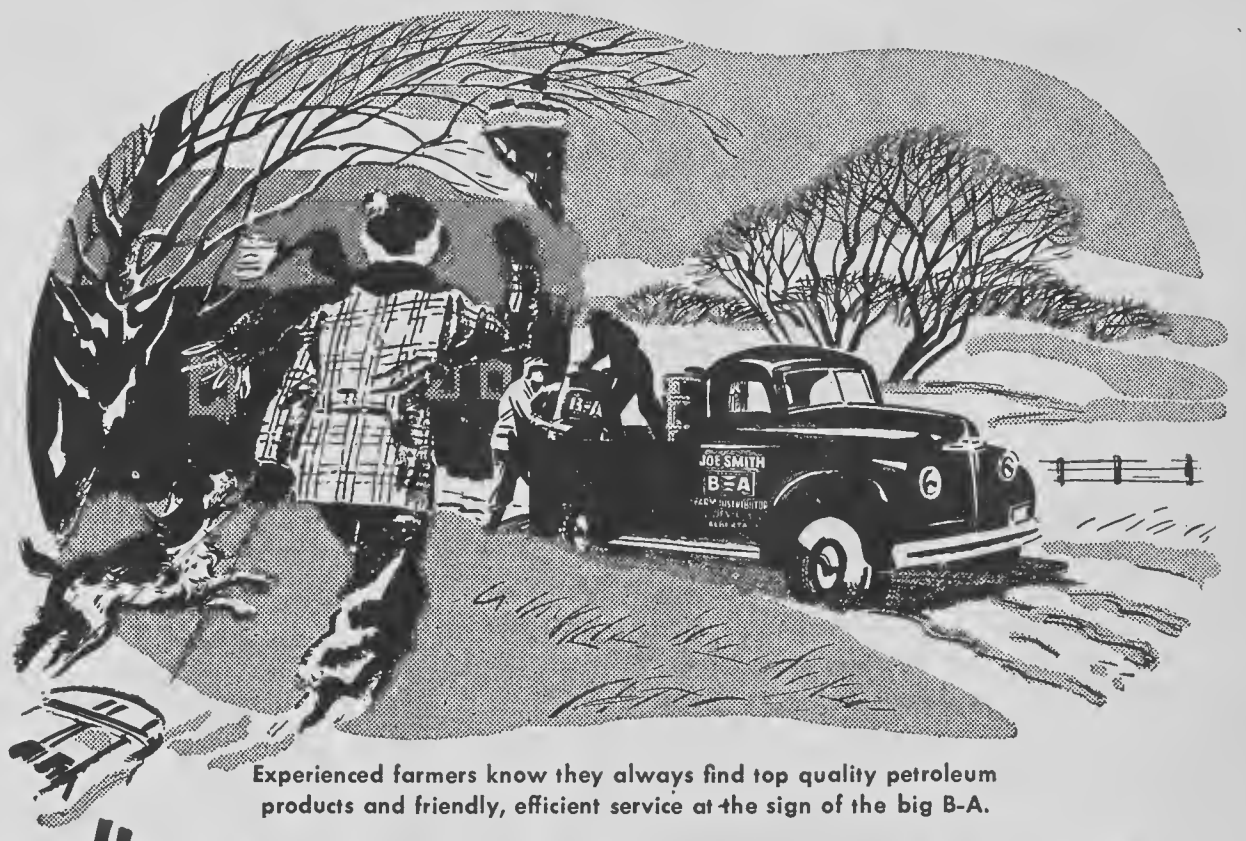
"Yes, Alma, he's gone."

"And—wherever he may be—he's happy. I feel it in my heart, because, before he went away, he saw that nothing would stand between those he loved and what they wanted most."

"That is right, Alma." He twisted his cap in his hands. "Tomorrow, I'll haul the tree away."

She looked into his face. "Yes, Sveri—tomorrow. Come back, tomorrow, Sveri."

When he left, the moon was shining, and where the pine tree had stood, there was no shadow.



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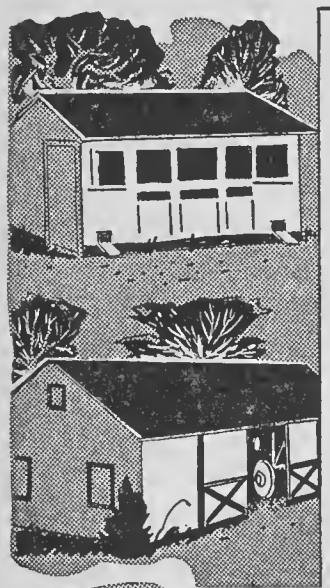
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● This feature is furnished monthly by United Grain Growers Limited

MONTHLY

Money Changes Affect Grain Prices

The most important news affecting grain during the past month has been the devaluation of currencies which took place on September 18 and 19. The British pound was cut from a value of $4.00 per pound in terms of American currency to $2.80 per pound. That was followed by devaluation by all countries which had formed part of the sterling bloc. It was followed by a devaluation of the Canadian dollar which put United States currency at a premium of 10 per cent.

Those changes, especially the devaluation of sterling, will have consequences reaching far into the future, some of which can, for the present, only be guessed at. But some of the changes arising from Canadian devaluation occurred immediately and were plain to all observers.

First to be noted was an immediate advance, in terms of Canadian money, in the price of wheat under the International Wheat Agreement. From August 1 of this year, when the Agreement became effective, until September 17, that price had been $1.80 for No. 1 Northern wheat in store at lakehead terminals, with the addition of five cents per bushel to cover carrying charges. The Canadian Wheat Board suspended all sales on September 19 until the new rate for the Canadian dollar was announced that night. Then on September 20, the selling price was advanced by 10 per cent, or to $1.98, with the addition as before of five cents per bushel for carrying charges. This was strictly in accordance with the terms of the International Agreement, which specified prices in "Canadian currency per bushel at the parity for the Canadian dollar determined for the purposes of the international monetary fund as at March 1, 1949." Quite evidently, the negotiators of the Agreement had in mind the possibility of some devaluation of Canadian currency, and took steps to safeguard the Agreement in that respect.

It is only in Canada that this change of price would be important or would attract notice. While other countries buy wheat in terms of Canadian dollars, they do not get such dollars directly but by transactions through the exchange market in New York, first making use of American dollars for that purpose. They would be conscious of increased difficulty in getting American dollars, because of the devaluation of their own currencies. Once, however, that had been allowed for, the price of Canadian wheat would appear to them to be the same after the change as it had been before. In fact, had the Canadian Wheat Board not advanced its price in Canadian currency it might well have been accused by the United States and Australia of carrying prices below the maximum provided in the Agreement.

There was, however, no change in the contract price to Great Britain, which on September 20 stood at $2.00 per bushel (plus the usual five cents per bushel for carrying charges) just as it had stood since August 1. The reason for the difference is that when the British Wheat Contract was signed in 1946, and again when the price of $2.00 per bushel was negotiated for the current crop year, there was no saving clause in respect to any devaluation of the Canadian dollar.

From August 1 to September 17 Canada was selling wheat to Great Britain at 20 cents per bushel more than to other countries which had signed the International Agreement. Thus, it could be said that the Canadian producer was getting some, even if only limited compensation, for the fact that during the first three years of the British contract Britain had been buying Canadian wheat much cheaper than had other countries. That differential was wiped out when the price to other countries was advanced. Thus, except for the first few weeks of the current crop year, the Canadian producer will not have any compensation at all, in respect to prices, for the price advantage which Great Britain had for the first three years of the contract. The advantages of the contract must be looked for elsewhere.

There was, of course, no change in the price of Canadian wheat for domestic consumption, which as before remains on the basis of the British contract.

The price for Class 2 wheat exported to non-agreement countries was advanced by the Canadian Wheat Board on September 20 to $2.20 per bushel as against the $2.12 which had prevailed on September 17. This, again, was necessary if Canadian wheat was to be kept in the same relationship to United States wheat as had previously prevailed. Roughly speaking, the price for Class 2 wheat is based on prices prevailing in the Chicago market. Under conditions prevailing this crop year, the Canadian Wheat Board has not attempted to exact as high a premium for quality as it was able to get during earlier years. In order to make sales, the Canadian price has to be kept on a basis that is fully competitive with prices for United States wheat.

Prices for oats, barley, and rye on the Winnipeg market advanced sharply on September 19 before announcement was made of the new rate for the Canadian dollar. That was because the market was quite correctly anticipating the devaluation which was announced that night by the Hon. Mr. Abbott. There were further advances on following days, but from then on it is difficult to separate the exchange factor from other influences in the market.

Broadly speaking, prices for Canadian coarse grains had been established on the basis of what they might be worth to a buyer intending to export them to the United States. A 10 per cent decline in the exchange value of the Canadian dollar would automatically increase that price basis.

Such changes, of course, created problems for the Canadian buyer of feed grains, who could not count upon an automatic increase in the price of livestock and livestock products. The western farmer who, on account of crop failure has to buy feed, would feel the change at once, as would also the eastern dairyman and hog feeder. It was expected that the price of beef and of beef cattle would advance because of the influence of the American market, but there would be no corresponding influence in respect to bacon

COMMENTARY

and cheese exported to Great Britain. The eastern farmer had commenced to buy some corn from the United States as a substitute for high price barley, but the cost of corn automatically advanced.

What It Means To Devalue The Pound

The change in the value of the Canadian dollar, discussed in the foregoing article, may be regarded as largely the consequence of the change which took place with respect to sterling and other currencies of the sterling bloc. To some extent, even if only partially, it tends to offset the consequence of those other changes. It even offsets some of the benefits that Britain might hope to derive from devaluation in promoting the export of British goods to Canada. Nothing, however, can offset immediately the fundamental difficulty of which the devaluation of sterling and European currencies generally is a symptom. For some time those countries have found themselves without sufficient resources to buy all they need of the products of North America. For the immediate present that problem is being solved in part by vast contributions from the United States towards European recovery, commonly called "The Marshall Plan." When that plan comes to an end, how will they continue to buy? For the present, no one knows the answer to that question, although we can hope that there will be such improvement in the world economic structure as will enable international trade to proceed smoothly.

Immediately the European buyer will see in the recent currency changes greatly increased difficulties in buying from North America, because goods from this continent will cost more in terms of his own currency. In Britain, for example, the price of bread is to go up at once. The government there has been subsidizing the consumer in order to keep down the cost of bread. It now feels that it cannot absorb the additional cost per bushel of wheat, which in terms of sterling will be one-third more than it used to be. Thus, the housewife will have to pay more for every loaf of bread.

A similar situation will exist throughout Europe in respect of everything which is imported from North America and that will intensify the difficulty of keeping up to a satisfactory volume exports of all kinds from this continent. True, for the immediate present, the Canadian wheat producer appears to have some protection in the terms of the International Wheat Agreement, under which various countries have bound themselves to take certain quantities of Canadian wheat over a term of years. But the contract itself will not be enforceable if the countries in question find that they cannot carry out their obligation.

Certainly grain producers in western Canada cannot afford to overlook the serious implications of the situation, which in the future may make it difficult to export grain in sufficient quantity or at adequate prices. As time advances it may become clearer how such problems can be dealt with.

In the meantime, one important development of recent weeks must be noted. Conversations at Washington between representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada led to an agreement that Great Britain would be allowed to use E.C.A. funds provided by the United States for the purchase of Canadian wheat. There has been some criticism by members of Congress, who would like to insist that Great Britain buy wheat from the United States rather than Canada, but there is reasonable hope that the understanding reached will be carried out. That is extremely important to Canada because otherwise Britain might not have found it easy to meet her commitment to buy 140 million bushels of Canadian wheat during the current crop year on the basis of $2.00 per bushel.

Grading And Handling Problems

Much of the early crop this year was threshed under extremely dry conditions so that a good deal of wheat, when delivered at country elevators contained only 11 per cent or so of moisture as against the 14 to 14½ per cent which is usual. An unusual difficulty in grading resulted from that fact for there was breakage of a considerable percentage of wheat kernels either in the process of threshing or during subsequent handling and cleaning in elevators. No. I Northern wheat is allowed to contain up to three per cent of cracked or broken kernels. In the rare occasions where the percentage was higher, it was the practice, in former years, of the Inspection Department to treat the excess of broken kernels as dockage to be cleaned out. This year, however, it was found practically impossible to clean out the excess of broken kernels, and as they endeavored to do so in elevator cleaners it resulted in further broken kernels. Consequently, the Inspection Department of the Board of Grain Commissioners issued a ruling that wheat containing more than three per cent of broken kernels would be graded No. 2 Northern, instead of No. 1. This created a difficulty for country elevators where a good deal of such wheat had already been taken in, during the first few weeks of the crop year, on the old basis. The difficulty tended to lessen as the season advanced and grain was threshed under more moist conditions.

Another problem, not hitherto experienced, developed this year in the separation of wild oats from barley. A considerable number of barley kernels were found to have a curve or hook with a spike at the end, a rachis as it is called. This, catching in the screens, tended to put such kernels with the wild oats rather than with the bulk of the barley. Terminal elevator operators are still struggling with the difficulty as well as attempting to find the cause. It may possibly be a result of weather conditions during threshing, or perhaps be a question of variety, as the difficulty appeared to arise more with Montcalm barley than with other varieties.

Each succeeding grain season develops problems of its own in connection with the grading and handling of grain.



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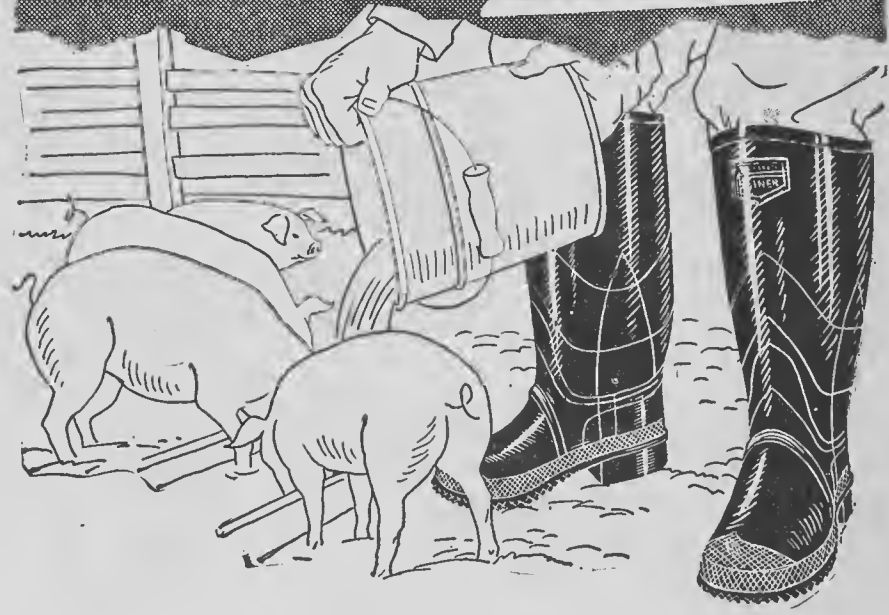
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CANADA PACKERS LIMITED

REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

The 22nd year of Canada Packers Limited closed March 30th, 1949. (Henceforth referred to as 'Fiscal 1949')

Following is a skeleton outline of the operations of the year.

1. Dollar Sales (new record) - - - - - - - $314,918,888
   Previous record,—Fiscal 1948 - - - - - - 238,454,037

   Increase over previous record - - - - - - $ 76,464,851
   Sales in last pre-war year,—Fiscal 1939 - - - $ 77,225,732

   NOTE: *Increase* in sales, Fiscal 1949 over Fiscal 1948, ($76,464,851) is almost equal to *total* sales of the last pre-war year ($77,225,732).

2. Tonnage,—weight of product sold - - - - 1,503,000,000 lbs.
   Tonnage had been exceeded in three previous years:—
   Fiscal 1945 - - - 1,698,000,000 lbs.
   Fiscal 1944 - - - 1,582,000,000 lbs.
   Fiscal 1946 - - - 1,526,000,000 lbs.
   Tonnage last pre-war year,—Fiscal 1939 800,000,000 lbs.

   NOTE: Dollar Sales Fiscal 1949,—approx. 4 times those of Fiscal 1939.
   Tonnage Fiscal 1949,—approx. twice that of Fiscal 1939.

3. Net Profit after all charges - - - - - - - - $2,807,237
   equivalent to .89% of Sales
   equivalent to 18.7c per 100 lbs. of product.
   i.e. something less than 1/5c per lb.

   Corresponding figures for last pre-war year,—
   Net Profit - - - - - - - - - - - - - $1,238,736
   equivalent to 1.61% of Sales
   equivalent to 15.5c per 100 lbs. of product.

   NOTE: Profit per pound approximately the same as that of Fiscal 1939.
   Profit as percentage of Sales approximately one-half that of Fiscal 1939.

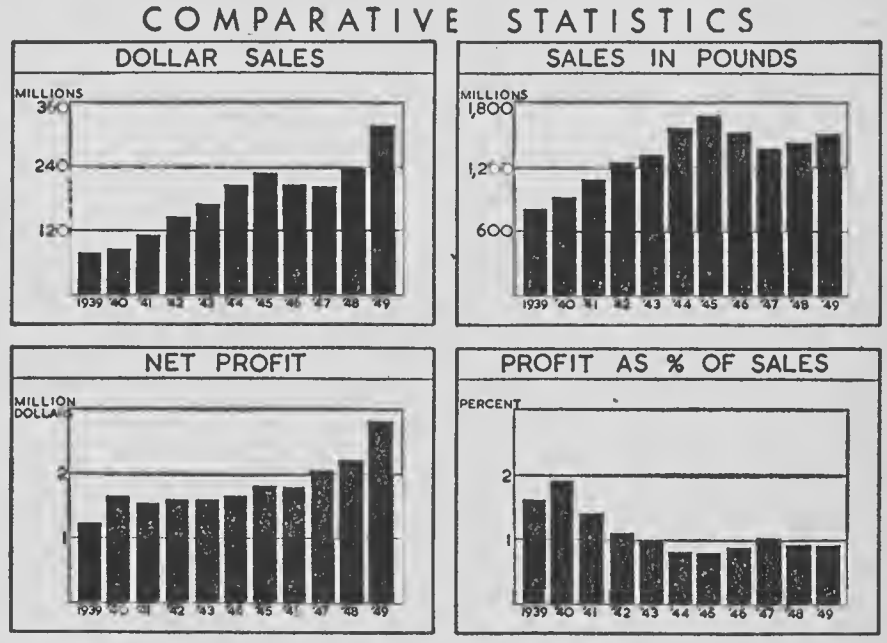
The following table sets up a comparison of the years:—

Fiscal 1949,—the year under review
Fiscal 1948,—the previous year
Fiscal 1939,—the last pre-war year.

Distribution of Sales Dollar

	Fiscal 1949	Fiscal 1948	Fiscal 1939
Dollar Sales - - - -	$314,918,888	$238,000,000	$77,000,000
Out of each Sales Dollar there was paid:—			
For Raw Materials—chiefly Live Stock and other farm products - - - - - -	84.42c	81.37c	80.45c
For Wages, Salaries and Bonus - - - - - -	7.02	8.48	8.86
For Services, — General Expenses - - - - - -	3.65	4.36	4.37
For Materials and Packages -	2.69	3.12	2.66
For Taxes, — Municipal, Provincial and Federal - -	.83	1.08	.69
For Debenture Interest - -	.05	.02	.21
For Depreciation on Fixed Assets - - - - - -	.34	.42	1.15
For Inventory Reserve - -	—	.26	—
For Pension Plan - - -	.24	—	—
	99.24c	99.11c	98.39c
Remainder, — Profit from Operations - - - - -	.76c	.89c	1.61c
Plus Income from Investments, etc. - - - - -	.02	.02	—
Dividends from Subsidiaries - - - -	.11	—	—
Total Net Profit for the year on each dollar of Sales	.89c	.91c	1.61c

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS



It will be seen that, out of each dollar of sales, there was paid for raw materials 84.42c. This was the average for *all* raw materials.

The products handled by the Company fall into four broad divisions—

1. *LIVE STOCK*, from which are derived:—
   Meats,—Beef, Veal, Pork, Lamb and Mutton;
   By-Products,—Hides, Skins, Tallow, Bones, Tankage, etc.

2. *OTHER FARM PRODUCTS*,
   Butter, Eggs, Cheese, Poultry, Fruits, Vegetables, etc.

3. *NON-FARM PRODUCTS*, comprising,
   Edible Oils, Shortening, Margarine, Soap, Peanut Butter, Fish, Fertilizers, Stock Foods, etc.

4. *MANUFACTURING*,—comprising,—
   Canned Meats, Canned Fruits and Vegetables, and Frosted Foods.

In respect of each separate division, as distinct from the over-all *average* of 84.42c, the sum paid for raw materials was as follows:—

Division 1—Live Stock - - - - - - - - -	84.7 c
Division 2—Other Farm Products - - - - -	90.14c
Division 3—Non-farm Products - - - - - -	83.21c
Division 4—Manufacturing - - - - - - - -	65.22c

The fact that out of each dollar of sales of Live Stock products there was paid back to the farmer 84.7 cents, and for each dollar of sales of other farm products the farmer received 90.14 cents, constitutes a new and remarkable record.

These high returns are explained by two main facts:—

1. The low cost of processing, made possible by the large volume and varied operations of Canada Packers.

2. The extremely high range of prices for farm products which obtained throughout the year.
   This high range of prices was brought about chiefly by the lifting of controls, and consequent advance of farm prices to the U.S. level.

The successive steps in decontrol occurred as follows:—

October 22, 1947—all ceiling prices on meats were lifted.
August 3, 1948—embargo lifted against the movement of Sheep and Lambs to United States.
August 16, 1948—embargo lifted against the movement of Cattle and Calves to United States.

An approximate measure of the effect of these decontrols is revealed in the following table, which sets up the average price per pound of all products sold, for the years 1939 to 1949.

NOTE: Average price per pound is arrived at by dividing the number of pounds sold into total dollar sales.

Example,—Dollar sales, Fiscal 1949 - - - - - -	$314,918,888
Number of pounds - - - - - - -	1,503,000,000
Average price - - - - - - - -	21c per lb.

	Average Price Per lb.	Increase from Previous Year	
Fiscal 1939	9.6c		
" 1940	9.7c	.1c per lb.	1.0%
" 1941	10.1c	.4c "	4.1%
" 1942	11.8c	1.7c "	16.8%
" 1943	12.7c	.9c "	7.6%
" 1944	13.0c	.3c "	2.4%
" 1945	13.5c	.5c "	3.8%
" 1946	13.7c	.2c "	1.5%
" 1947	14.9c	1.2c "	8.8%
" 1948	16.5c	1.6c "	10.7%
" 1949	21.0c	4.5c "	27.3%

NOTE: (a) Advance in average price for Fiscal 1949 was 4.5c per lb.,—equivalent to - - - - - - - - - 27.3%

(b) Greatest advance in any previous year (that of Fiscal 1942) had been 1.7c per lb. - - - - - - - 16.8%

(c) The average price of the five pre-war years (Fiscals 1935-1939 inclusive) had been - - - - - - - 9.5c

(d) Average price of Fiscal 1949 (21c per lb.) exceeded the average of the 5 pre-war years (9.5c) by - - 11.5c per lb.
equivalent to - - - - - - - - 121%

How long can such price levels continue?

Is a post-war deflation near at hand?

Has it already begun?
(*NOTE*: A substantial decline in U.S. Cattle prices has already occurred.)

Will further decline (when it comes) be gradual or abrupt?

At what approximate levels (relatively to pre-war) will farm prices ultimately stabilize?

Although it is more than four years since the end of the war, it is still difficult to give a confident answer to any one of these questions. However, the underlying conditions which will in the end determine price levels are beginning to appear.

Amongst these are the following:—

(1) All over the world, hunger and high prices have led to vast increase in food production. In Europe, for two years following V-E Day, a condition existed of semi-starvation. Great quantities of food were shipped from United States and Canada.
All this is changed.
Europe is still short of meats and dairy products but has not dollars to buy them from North America, and is able to maintain a fairly adequate standard of nutrition without them.

(2) In United States and Canada, therefore, live stock prices will be determined chiefly by conditions of supply and demand, *at home.*

On the supply side, live stock production seems likely to increase. The growing problem of finding buyers abroad for surplus grains will force farmers to market their grains through the medium of live stock.

On the demand side, purchasing power is still high, but some diminution has already set in.

(3) The peak of prices in U.S. and Canada has admittedly been passed. It would seem certain that further declines were imminent, except for the delaying influence of Government support policies. Up to now, because of resilient national revenues, these supports have not imposed a heavy burden. But national revenues are shrinking and the sums involved in the support policies are increasing. It is by no means certain that the United States can carry indefinitely the burden of farm support on the scale involved in present legislation.

• • •

In a year of record volume and extraordinary price advances, a record profit was to be expected. Upon normal operations, after Taxes, Depreciation, and Bonus, Net Profit was - - - - - - $3,223,686

This made possible a plan Directors had been considering for several years,—viz. the placing of the Company's pension plan upon a contractual basis.

Since Canada Packers was organized (1927), pensions had been paid to all retiring Employees. In Fiscal 1949 the number of Employees on pension was 179. Total sum paid - - - - - - - - $104,313

Actuarial surveys had warned that the cost of the plan, in the years immediately ahead, would mount rapidly, and Directors felt the setting up of a fund could not longer be delayed.

At the formation of the Company, 5% of the Common Shares had been set aside for this purpose, and the accumulated dividends on these shares were in hand - - - - - - - - - - - - - - $657,498
Otherwise no fund existed.

Space limitations do not permit a description of the plan adopted. A booklet has been published giving full details. Shareholders or others who are interested may have a copy upon application.

The obligations of the Company for pensions are now definitely fixed.

(1) In respect of Employees already retired, pensions will be charged as heretofore against current operations.

	CURRENT	CAPITAL
Payment for the present year (Fiscal 1950) will be approximately - - -	$105,000	

NOTE: As no new names will be added to this group, payments will gradually decline to zero.

(2) In respect of Employees hereafter to be retired, payments fall into two categories.

(a) *For past service.* The cost of this will be borne entirely by the Company. Cost if paid in one sum, approximately $3,000,000

NOTE: $1,000,000 was paid in Fiscal 1949. Also $1,000,000 has already been paid in Fiscal 1950. Directors hope to complete payment in Fiscal 1951.

(b) *For future service.* This plan is contributory. Employee pays approximately half and Company approximately half.
Company's contribution approx. (per year) - - - - - - - - $395,000

Total payments during Fiscal 1949, in respect of new pension plan were - - - - - - - - - - $1,423,947

derived as follows:—

Accumulated dividends on Shares set aside at formation of Company - - - - - - - -	$ 657,498
Dividend from wholly-owned Subsidiaries - -	350,000
Charged to current operations - - - - - -	*416,449
	$1,423,947
*Net Profit brought down - - - - - - - - - - - -	$3,223,686
Less charge as above - - - - - - - - - - - -	416,449
Final Net Profit - - - - - - - - - - - -	$2,807,237

Dividend from Subsidiaries

Canada Packers has three wholly-owned Subsidiaries, the investments in which have heretofore been carried on the Balance Sheet at original purchase price. The Dividend of $350,000 referred to above is the first Dividend received from them.

These Subsidiaries are:—

The Collis Leather Company Limited, of Aurora - - - - - - - - -	- acquired in Fiscal 1936
Frank Hunnisett Limited, of Toronto -	- acquired in Fiscal 1941
Beardmore & Co. Limited, of Acton -	- acquired in Fiscal 1945

The Collis Company and the Beardmore Company are manufacturers of Leather, and formerly bought a large portion of their raw material (Calf Skins and Hides, respectively) from Canada Packers. Frank Hunnisett Limited were processors of fresh meats,—(Beef, Calves, Lambs),—situated immediately West of Canada Packers' plant on St. Clair Avenue, Toronto.

In the Report to Shareholders the Balance Sheet of Canada Packers is set up in two columns. The first column treats investments at cost, and is therefore comparable with Balance Sheets of previous years.

The second column is a Consolidated Balance Sheet, in which are merged the total assets and liabilities of the above three Subsidiaries.

• • •

Employee Relations throughout the year were cordial and co-operative. During the war, due to rapid labour turnover and other causes, efficiency declined. Beginning with 1946, both output per man hour and quality of product have steadily improved.

For this, Directors extend to Employees of all ranks their sincere appreciation.

The Company has continued its profit-sharing policy.
Bonus distributed at the year end was - - - - - - $1,040,00

Total sum set aside within the year for the benefit of Employees, (including $1,423,947 for pensions) was - $2,463,947

Since 1935,—when dividends were first paid on the Common Shares, the profit and distribution record has been as follows:—

		Bonus to Employees	Net Profit (After Bonus)	Dividends to Shareholders	Left in Business
Fiscal	1936	$ 415,000	$1,288,011	$ 600,000	$ 688,011
"	1937	512,000	1,522,662	600,000	922,662
"	1938	193,000	1,100,559	600,000	500,559
"	1939	216,000	1,238,736	600,000	638,736
"	1940	590,000	1,667,809	800,000	867,809
"	1941	700,000	1,555,028	900,000	655,028
"	1942	755,000	1,611,465	800,000	811,465
"	1943	792,000	1,611,418	800,000	811,418
"	1944	937,000	1,687,587	800,000	887,587
"	1945	1,060,000	1,824,811	900,000	924,811
"	1946	1,200,000	1,816,781	1,000,000	816,781
"	1947	1,250,000	2,059,644	1,000,000	1,059,644
"	1948	1,500,000	2,182,300	1,000,000	1,182,300
"	1949	1,040,000	2,807,237	1,000,000	1,807,237
Total Bonus		$11,160,000			

Total to Employees, including payments this year for Pensions $12,583,947

Total Dividends $11,400,000

Total left in business $12,574,048

This table is published for the information of Shareholders. At each recent Annual Meeting there has been a suggestion that an increase in dividend might be justified. Directors recognize that, in view of the strong working capital position, such a request is not unreasonable. However, action has been postponed for two reasons:

(1) Directors felt that the setting up of a Guaranteed Pension Plan should come first.

(2) Having in mind the catastrophic deflation losses of 1920/21, they hesitated to commit the Company to a higher dividend scale, until more normal conditions were re-established.

It is believed the Inventory Reserves set up during the war will more than meet any deflation losses which are now likely to occur. However, Directors feel that action regarding the dividend should be postponed until the economic horoscope becomes somewhat easier to read.

J. S. McLEAN,
President.

Toronto, August 22nd, 1949.

Extra copies of this report are available and so long as they last, will be mailed to anyone requesting them. Address to Canada Packers Limited, Toronto 9.

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Voles Are Always Hungry

And the losses caused by them are rising with the rising curve of their population cycle

by **KERRY WOOD**

VOLES are increasing rapidly again in western Canada, an abundant peak of the little animals fast approaching and causing naturalists to speculate if this cycle-peak will be as bad as the 1942-43 record. During the autumn, winter, and spring of that period the Voles, otherwise known as Drummond's Meadow Mice, were so plentiful in many Alberta and Saskatchewan districts that farm fields were simply crawling with them, and it was not unusual to find 20 to 30 under every wheat stook.

Winter set in early that year, catching about 60 per cent of the western Canadian crop still in the stook or swath. By spring, when farmers finally got their threshing done, the mousy millions had drastically reduced the potential grain yield. Crops that seemed certain to yield 40 bushels to the acre during the stooking period threshed out less than 20 bushels per acre in the spring, due to the destructive teeth of myriads of mice feeding on the grain all winter. Threshing machines ran red with the blood of the little animals that spring, too, the mice hiding in the sheaves tossed into the separators' conveyor belts. Farmers handling this mouse-infested grain caught a bothersome itch called Mouse Ringworm or Mouse Eczema, caused by mites living on the Vole fur. This disease lasted for the two or three week period that the men were handling the mousy grain, causing considerable annoyance and distress to farmers at that time. A similar outbreak of Mouse Eczema was reported about twenty-five years ago from the grain fields of Australia.

Some idea of Vole numbers infesting western Canada during the peak of an abundant cycle may be gained from observations recorded by the great naturalist, Ernest Thompson Seton, while serving as government naturalist for the province of Manitoba at the start of the century. Mr. Seton investigated a Vole plague at that time and estimated the animals to number 10,000 individuals to the square mile! In certain parts of western Canada during the 1942-43 peak, farmers and others were convinced that Mr. Seton's figures were too conservative! The fields were literally alive with the fat-bodied, short-tailed little animals, close relatives of the Lemmings that periodically overrun parts of northern Europe.

VOLES are amazingly prolific. The gestation period is only twenty days; they have six families per year, averaging six to eight young ones per litter. Young mice mature rapidly, being full grown at three months' time when they start raising families of their own. There are more than seventy-five varieties of Voles on this continent; in total individual numbers, these creatures probably outnumber all other mammals (including humans) living on North America today. The common Drummond's Vole averages around five inches in length, counting in the tail that measures one and one-half inches long; some members of the family, such as the giant Richardson's Vole found on the mountain slopes of Alberta, measure up to nine inches in over-all length. In eastern Canada and the United States the best known member of the family is the common meadow mouse or Pennsylvanian Vole.

Meadow mice are terribly destructive to grain and fodder crops. Originally grass-eaters, they will attack any cereal crop during its growing stage as well as busily dining upon the ripened kernels later on. Naturalists employed by the American Department of Agriculture discovered that 66 Voles eat or destroy one ton of hay or similar fodder per year—and there are far more than 66 meadow mice populating the average hay field! Yet farmers pay little attention to Vole damage during ordinary years, unaware of Vole destructiveness due to the small size of the animals and the nocturnal nature of their activities. But you can blame Voles for the farmer's puzzlement when he confidently expected a bumper crop and only reaped a less than average field.

AS yet, no man-made control measures have been devised to reduce Vole numbers—they are too small, too widely scattered, and too prolific to make poison-baiting a feasible practice. Therefore we are forced to rely on the little creatures' natural control agents to keep our fields reasonably clean. Here again, farmers seem unaware of the true worth of their helpful allies among the predators. The finest Vole control agent on the list is the weasel, but farmers have for centuries persecuted weasels because the slim killers sometimes wreak havoc among poultry flocks. However, weasels cannot get inside a tightly built modern poultry house, and it should be remembered that the natural food of weasels is mice. Weasels kill literally millions of Voles annually as the bloodthirsty little murderers forage across our farm fields at night. Skunks also help to control Voles; so do foxes and coyotes. High on the useful list of allies we must count many members of the hawk and owl families—the short-eared owl of the marshlands is particularly beneficial in this regard, as 75 per cent of its food consists of mice. Yet these same owls are regularly shot by duck hunters every autumn, the owls presenting easy targets to the gunners as the birds fly over the marshes during the early evening.

Right now, those same marsh grasses and hay fields are noisy with suspicious rustles and scamperings, indicating that the plump-bodied meadow mice are thriving again. Occasionally you discover a mouse midden, a sort of mousy refuse heap and community toilet, and if you part the grasses around such spots, you'll be amazed to see the multitude of hard-beaten runways extending in all directions from these middens. The Voles are on the march again, spreading from the marshes and hay lands to the grain fields where they can wreak terrific damage. This approaching peak may or may not be as bad as the 1942-43 record breaker, but farmers should be alerted to the danger because the mousy millions are always hungry.

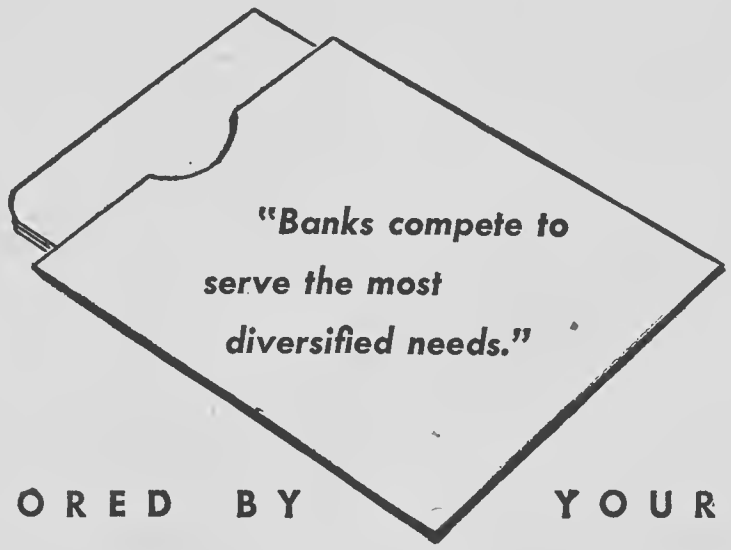


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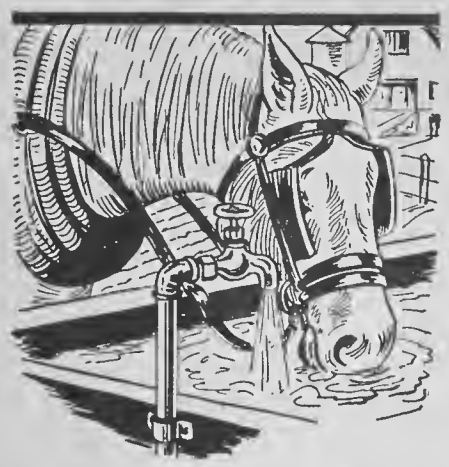
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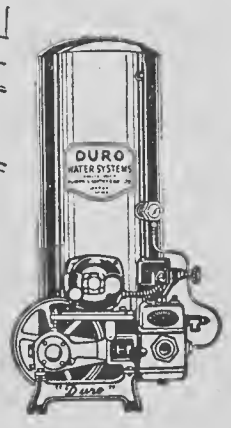


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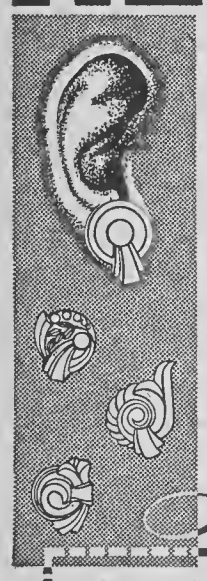
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The Weasel

Continued from page 15

"Home," I said. "She said she would be back at sundown."

Uncle Reece seemed relieved and he told me to hurry home from school that evening and we'd shoot, and when I got back that evening from school, Uncle Reece had the saddle on Old Kate. He also had a row of tin cans sitting along the top of the lane fence, and he had his pistol in his hip pocket.

I hung my books by the strap on the paling fence, and Uncle Reece reached down and pulled me on behind him.

WE rode back up the road a ways above the house. Uncle Reece said that was to give Old Kate time to get up speed and be in full stride by the time we reached the row of tin cans.

When we turned Old Kate and Uncle Reece tried to spur her into a run, she heaved and snorted and grunted and groaned. Old Kate didn't seem to understand it. She was pretty old anyhow, and hadn't been in a gait above a slow plow walk since she was a colt, but finally Uncle Reece got her into a run, and as we passed the house it seemed like all the ducks, geese, chickens, hogs and guinea hens had gathered in the lane. They couldn't seem to understand it either, and they flew up into the air in all directions, and feathers flying, and the guinea hens lining both lane fences and potracking, and pigs squealing It did look as if Uncle Reece and I were either drunk or just plain crazy.

But when Uncle Reece opened fire, all was quiet. It seemed as if every living thing on the place hid and got still and shivered.

"Hold tight," Uncle Reece hollered, "and watch the tin cans bounce."

When Uncle Reece had fired the round of six shots, six cans were gone from the fence. We rode on down the road and charged the tin cans from the west, and Uncle Reece knocked six more.

"While Old Kate gets her wind," Uncle Reece said, "I will chisel my initials in the barn door."

We reined Old Kate about forty yards from the barn door, and while her sides went in and out, Uncle Reece started chiseling his initials, and just sitting there, holding to his slim body, and watching the curves and angles appearing in the barn door, I felt a little sorry for that weasel when, and if, it ever dared to come back to the chicken lot.

When the last tin can was knocked off, and the barn door job was finished, Uncle Reece rode under an apple tree that hung over the fence and pulled green apples. I threw the apples up and watched them burst in the air.

But of a sudden Uncle Reece stopped. He reined Old Kate. Uncle Reece was looking toward the west and the setting sun.

"Oh, Alec," Uncle Reece said, his voice calmed now and be became serious, "you know I am not Joshua of old. I cannot command the sun to stand still. The battle is now concluded . . . before your Aunt Vicky comes."

We unsaddled Old Kate and put her back in the stable. Uncle Reece hung his pistol back on the nail. The living things about the plantation ventured forth again from their hiding. The smoke had cleared and the sound of the battle had rumbled off and got still among the hills. If Aunt Vicky noticed the initials in the barn door or the ground torn up in the lane, she never let on, and the pouting continued for another day and another night, and then the break came.

The old rooster out in the chicken lot squalled this time, and at the sound of the old rooster's cry of pain, Uncle Reece hollered, "Pop goes the weasel!" and snatched his pistol from the nail over the door and broke toward the chicken lot.

I took after Uncle Reece, grabbing me up some throwing rocks to use just in case.

Uncle Reece slung open the wire gate to the chicken lot. The old red rooster was standing about the middle of the chicken lot, and he was shivering and reeling and crying in mortal pain and agony. The other chickens were scrooched up in the corners of the lot. Uncle Reece circled the old red rooster, with me tiptoeing behind him. Uncle Reece had his pistol cocked and poised, and I had a rock drawn in my right hand, but for the life of us, we could not see a living thing to shoot or throw at, or what it was that ailed the old rooster.

While we circled, Aunt Vicky came. She screamed, "You gonna stand there and let that weasel kill the old rooster?"

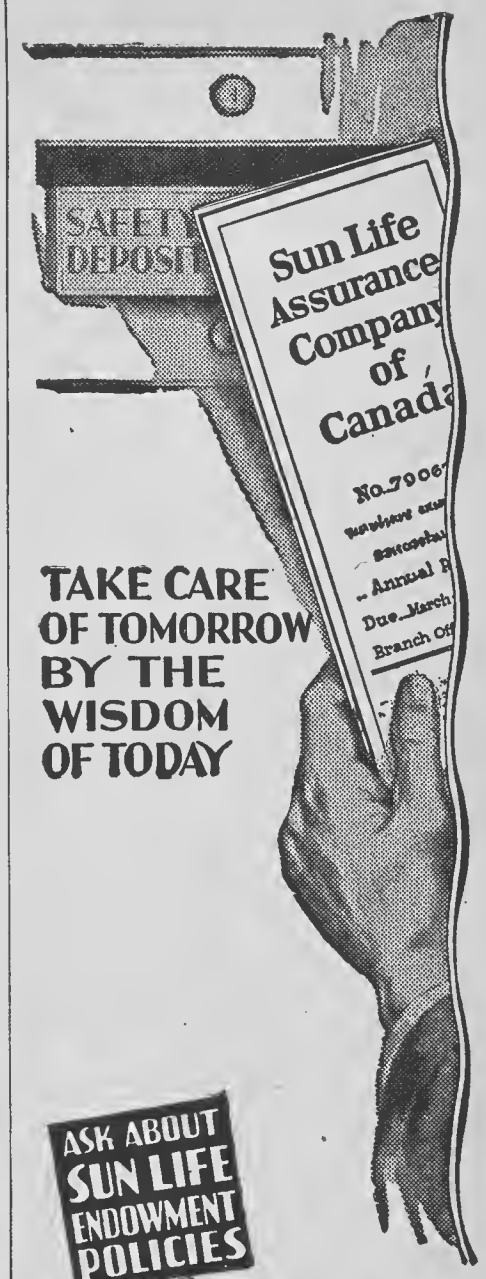
Uncle Reece started to explain that he did not see any weasel, but Aunt Vicky did not wait. She grabbed the old rooster and shook him, and the weasel dropped from under the old rooster's wing where it had been sucking away his life's blood while Uncle Reece and I circled him with gun and rock.

The weasel started around the wire fence, Uncle Reece pumping hot lead at it, and I throwing rocks. It seemed the faster Uncle Reece shot and the faster I threw rocks, the faster the weasel got, until it was a brown shadow streak. I guessed it was trying to find the place where it came in, but with such shooting and throwing, the weasel must have lost its head. It would dash on past the chicken lot door, never noticing it stood wide open.

When I had thrown all the throwing rocks I could find, and Uncle Reece was starting on his third round, Aunt Vicky came up with a flat rock about the size and shape of a dishpan. It was not the right size or shape of rock to throw at a weasel. That was one of Aunt Vicky's weaknesses. She never could learn the right size rocks to throw, and besides, she couldn't throw anyhow.

But she heaved the flat rock up. She got it clear over her head. She could not throw such a rock. She only kind of dumped it in the general direction of where she last glimpsed the weasel.

As the rock came down, the weasel took a crosscut toward the rock. The weasel dashed across the middle of the chicken lot, and as it came, it ran between Uncle Reece's feet, and he fired straight down at it with the last shot of the third round, but did not touch it, and the weasel just did make it under the falling flat rock, and when the rock came to rest on the ground, the weasel's brown tail was sticking out.



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AUNT VICKEY started dusting off her hands on her kitchen apron, and acting cool and as if she hadn't done any more than any ordinary woman would do under the same circumstances.

Then she looked at Uncle Reece. Uncle Reece still stood in the middle of the chicken lot, the muzzle of his pistol pointed down, and the smoke still curling out, and floating off among the alder bushes.

This was the moment. It was now Aunt Vicky's turn to pull the trigger. I knew that she had on the tip of her tongue the lash that had disarmed Uncle Reece . . . that final word . . . the argument that would confound what had seemed Uncle Reece's unanswerable argument about the need for a gun instead of a cook stove. I felt sorry now for Uncle Reece. For him, it sure enough would be pop goes the weasel, but to my surprise, when Aunt Vicky spoke, her voice was kind. It had a tone of sympathy.

"Oh, Reece, honey," she said, "you look pale . . . sick!"

I glanced at Uncle Reece. He was not looking at Aunt Vicky. He was looking down at his feet, and when I looked at his feet, I saw. There was a bullet-hole in the toe of Uncle Reece's left shoe, and from the bullet-hole there was an oozing of blood, and Uncle Reece was starting to reel and to rock.

Aunt Vicky and I got under his arms. We could not have carried him any more than we could have a tree, but we steadied him, and he walked on his heel, and we stretched him on the front porch.

Aunt Vicky pulled off his shoe and bloody sock, and she lifted one toe.

"Reece, honey," she said, "you have shot one of your toes nearly off. You will have to get to the doctor."

Uncle Reece groaned.

"No, Vicky," he said. "I can't do that. People would find out I missed the weasel and hit my foot. I'd never hear the last of it . . ."

Aunt Vicky said she understood how that could be. She went in the house and tore a tea towel in strips, and got the iodine bottle and soaked Uncle Reece's shot foot and bandaged it up.

Then she had to climb in a chair to hang the pistol back on the nail.

The old rooster got all right and started crowing again, and nothing bothered the chickens, but Uncle Reece suffered a lot of pain. He used two chairs on the front porch. One he sat in, and in the other he rested his shot foot. What hurt him the worst was that he couldn't leave the house when Aunt Vicky would cook on the crippled stove, and Uncle Reece would have to endure the falling of the oven door in addition to the pain in his toe. A dozen times a day Uncle Reece had to lie. Everybody passing along the lane would see Uncle Reece's tied-up foot and holler in to know what happened to his foot. Uncle Reece told them all the same thing. He said he had stepped on a nail, and they would go on about a puncture wound from a nail being dangerous, and blood poison might set in.



"I DON'T CARE ANYTHING ABOUT A PEARL HANDLE — ALL I WANT IS A NINE SHOOTER TO KILL A CAT."

Of evenings when I would get in from school, I would try to cheer Uncle Reece up all I could.

Once I said, "Uncle Reece, you know I doubt whether Jesse James could have hit a weasel with a pistol."

Uncle Reece grinned. He said he doubted it, too. He said it would have been interesting to see Jesse James take a crack at a weasel in a chicken lot with a pistol. But, between Uncle Reece and me, we agreed that Jesse James probably never tried it, at least it was the only thing we could think of that hadn't been explained about Jesse James.

I RECOLLECT the first day Uncle Reece got out. He hadn't told me he was going out when I left for school that morning but that evening when I turned up the hollow, I saw Uncle Reece's truck had been out of hollow for the first time since he shot his foot, and I was glad to think he had got out so he wouldn't have to hear the oven door fall, and I broke into a lope up the road.

As I passed the barn, I glanced at Uncle Reece's initials in the barn door. The next odd thing I saw was Aunt Vicky's old crippled cook stove. It looked odd thrown out in the goldenrod weeds by the blacksmith shop, but I was pretty sure of what had happened

I tiptoed onto the porch and inside the door. I glanced up. Uncle Reece's pistol was gone from the nail.

Then I heard Uncle Reece's voice. He was in the kitchen. I could hear him talking to Aunt Vicky, and they were friendly as could be now.

I eased my book strap over a chair back and edged around to where I could see in the kitchen. I saw the new cook stove Aunt Vicky had been looking at over in Mr. Henderson's store.

I could see Uncle Reece. He had a fork and he was turning rashers of meat in the skillet. He had the top front section of his left shoe cut out, and his foot rested on its heel, his toes slanting up under the stove.

There was a curious but pleasant odor of boiling coffee, frying meat and the new polish on the stove.

Uncle Reece was saying, "You know, Vicky, this turned out to be a good deal after all. Mr. Henderson was perfectly willing to swap the stove for the pistol and your other twenty dollars . . ."

Aunt Vicky said, "Why, Reece, honey, you always make good deals. Seems as if everything you turn your hands to always turns out right in the end . . ."

I could see then what the neighbors meant by Uncle Reece being disarmed. I could see that Uncle Reece's shooting days were over and gone and nothing left except his initials in the barn door.





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Crops On Legs

Continued from page 13

High losses mean low profits. The farrowing house is designed to reduce losses. The windows face the southwest to get as much heat from the sun as possible. In the winter storm windows are used. The opposite wall is dug into a hill, and a cement wall stands against this bank. A jacket heater is centred in the building, and is let down to below the level of the floor. A water pipe goes from the jacket heater along a centre partition below the floor of the alley-way. The floor of the alley-way is made of two-inch planks, and is about 16 inches above the floor of the building. This means that the young pigs from all pens can go right under the alley-way and be near to the heated pipes where the sow cannot step on them. The pipes are kept so that they are just warm to the touch.

THE Carlyles give the young pigs attention even before they are born. They put the sows in the farrowing pens four or five days before they are due and leave them until they farrow. They fix the fire in the jacket heater in the evening and, instead of being up all night, just leave the sow to it and count the little pigs in the morning. If the sow is very nervous or the little pigs are very weak, attention may be necessary. They vaccinate the little pigs for septicemia when they are very small—in the winter when they are two or three days old.

The little pigs spend the first 10 weeks of their lives in the farrowing pen, unless other pigs need the room. They are not allowed out, but they are fed sods, a little cod liver oil every day, green feed and a liver compound containing iron and Vitamin B complex. They feed some hulless oats to the little pigs as soon as they will eat it. This is fed under the platform where the sow cannot get it. When the little pigs are two months old the sows are taken out of the pen. The young pigs stay for another two weeks and then are taken to pastures where they are run in bunches as large as 100 to 125 pigs.

This is just about the last that the Carlyles see of these pigs until they are ready for market. They get their feed—consisting of mixtures of barley and oats and a small proportion of hog concentrate—out of self-feeders in the field. The pastures are all located on a river bank and the pigs get their water right from the river. Unless something unexpected happens the only work involved consists of filling the self-feeders every 10 days or two weeks.

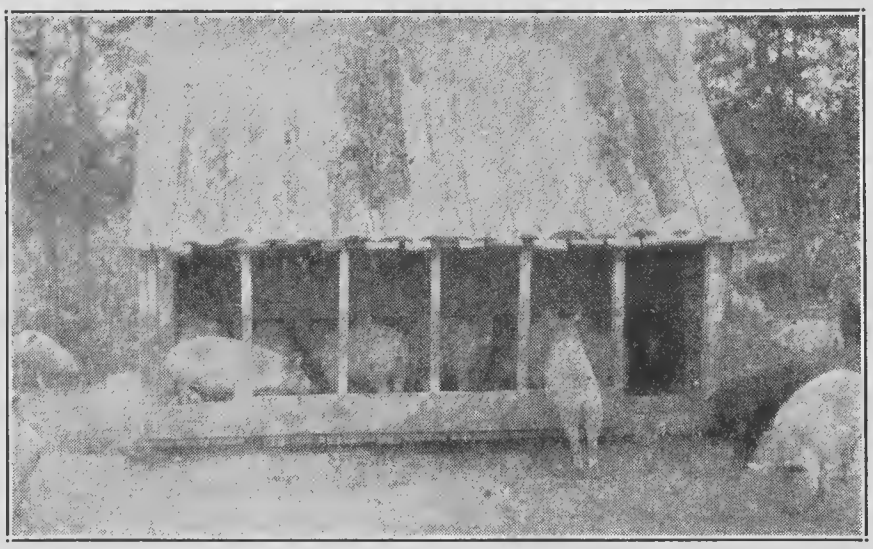
Once a month pigs that appear to be pretty well up to weight are run in for weighing. Those that are up to weight are shipped. Those that are nearly up are kept in pens in the yard and hand-fed until they go, in order to avoid the necessity of running pigs in from the pasture too often.

As might be expected there is a considerable difference in ages between the pigs in one pasture. You would think this would make some complications with regard to feeding, but the Carlyles have had no trouble. They report that the younger pigs pick more of the alfalfa and brome growing in the pasture, and so reduce the richness of their feed intake.

During the winter the pigs are run in bunches of 50 to 75, and are kept in pens and pastures nearer the buildings. The small pigs are allowed to pick over alfalfa to get the leaves. As the pigs grow older alfalfa is run through a hammer-mill and mixed with the feed in the self-feeders. In the case of sows the alfalfa meal makes up 40 to 50 per cent of the winter ration. This has the effect of giving stronger pigs and also means the sows can be practically self-fed. This saves labor hours.

One valuable labor-saving feature that could not be duplicated on many farms is the watering system. The barns and pens are below a range of hills, and, as luck would have it, there is a spring higher in the hill above Bob Carlyle's place. The boys hollowed out the spring, put in a cement crib, buried pipes in the hill and ran the water down into a trough in the pasture, out again and through the pig house, into a barrel in the brooder house, out through another pipe into troughs in the cattle and hog feedlots and on down into the river. The water runs all the time, summer and winter. Some of us could, perhaps, get a somewhat similar set-up by digging a well on high land above the pastures and sinking a tank. Not everyone can locate water on high land, however.

With the help of good livestock the Carlyle brothers have built a farm that represents a type of agriculture that does not deplete their soil. By careful planning they are able to produce both cattle and hogs with a minimum of labor and are able to put their products onto the market without too high a cost per animal. We all know that it is the difference between the cost of producing and the sale price that is the margin of profit. They know they cannot alter the sale price much. They do their work on the cost side.



When this self-feeder has been filled, the Carlyles forget about feeding the hogs again for 10 days to two weeks.



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The Old Country's Horses

Britain's very limited supply of meat has put a premium on horse-flesh, consequently farm drafters with lots of use left in them go untimely to slaughter

by **J. D. U. WARD**

NEARLY two years ago the surplus horses of both Australia and Canada made news. In Australia the wild brumbies were a serious and costly pest, and in Canada there were reported to be about 500,000 too many horses. The export from Canada of millions of cans of horse-meat to Europe, through UNRRA, caused some superior sniffs in England, where people took the line, "Of course, those Continental peoples eat horses . . ."

Now circumstances have changed, and many Britons have become hippophagists. The people of the United Kingdom, helped by their dogs, are eating between 50,000 and 100,000 home-bred horses a year. Since the number of horses born is about 16,000 a year, horse-lovers are very gravely concerned, and questions have been asked in parliament.

The Old Country's horse population was, of course, declining before her people were converted to eating horse-flesh. Horses were still being rapidly displaced from the roads by motor vehicles and from the fields by tractors. The story of the horse in the fields has an element of pathos which is little appreciated. Not till some centuries after the Battle of Hastings did horses come to English farms, for nearly all plows were drawn by oxen to the end of the Middle Ages. From oxen came such measures as furlong (furrow-long) and pole, rod or perch, as well as the old meat stone of eight pounds. Then, in a few localities, the place of oxen was taken by horses, and gradually competition developed throughout the country. For perhaps 250 years the contest was keen and close, and the pros and cons of oxen and horses would be much debated . . . oxen were better on wet land . . . oxen were more economical on the poor land of the Downs . . . horses were much quicker . . . the young men would not work with slow oxen. . . . Early in the 19th century it was clear that horses had triumphed. Yet their hard-won victory lasted little over 100 years, for tractors offered too many advantages. Some horse-lovers made a show of fight. There were, of course, jocular pictures of bogged tractors being pulled out by horses, and stories about the sparrows' preference for horses. A tractor-driver who boasted that his "horse" didn't eat when it was not working would be answered by a horseman with "My horses don't eat when they are working."

But horses were doomed to decline ever more rapidly. Though there were still over 1,000,000 horses engaged in agriculture in 1937, the figure was down to 600,000 ten years later—and now it is probably below 500,000, partly because of the great horse-flesh boom.

Though farm horses were thus dwindling, the position of play or pleasure horses seemed quite safe until the last year or two. Riding schools multiplied, and hacking or pleasure-riding was increasingly popular. There was racing and fox-hunting, A survey in one county (Berkshire) showed that there were as many horses used for play and recreation as for farm work and commercial transport. But the demand for horse-meat has touched even the lightweight pleasure horses. A horse worth £25 to £35 lean and alive, to ride, may be worth £50 or £60 fat and dead, to sell on the black market. Even young foals are killed, for their flesh, treated to simulate veal, is retailed in some localities at over three shillings a pound. Many people have forgotten how they used to sneer less than three years ago at the inferior Continental nations which ate horse!

The idea that it is morally wrong or "low" to eat horse-flesh was and is indefensible: the horse is itself a clean-feeding animal and it has long supplied leather for gloves and shoes—not to mention hair for the wigs of high court judges. If the chief reason for large-scale hippophagy in England were either starvation among people or the utter uselessness of living horses, then there could be no cause for complaint. But, in fact, the reason why more than 200 horses are being killed in England every day is the deliberate development of black and grey markets which offer very high profits to racketeers, exploiting the meat-hunger of 45,000,000 people rationed to one shilling's worth of normal butcher's meat per week. That is why there is now grave concern, even a sense of outrage, among some who understand what is happening.



The mechanization of farms in Britain lagged a little behind that trend in the New World, but it is now on in earnest. Small tractors are replacing horse outfits like the above right in the home of the Clydesdale and the Shire.



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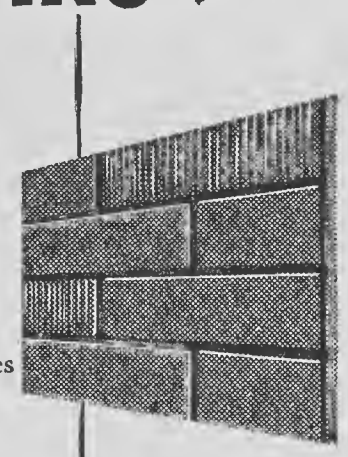
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Auctioneer

Continued from page 10

to Olds by train, and from there 30 miles across country in a cutter. According to custom the implements and household effects were auctioned before knocking off for lunch, and the livestock, which included 130 choice grade Clydes and 87 grade Shorthorn cattle, were to pass under the hammer after the noon break.

Layzell got through that terrible morning with frequent assistance from a brown flask. The searching cold and the comforting flask produced a physiological equilibrium. When they went inside the warm dining room, one of the influences ceased to be felt. Pronto, there was no auctioneer left to finish the sale. The flask had triumphed.

Stewart, the owner, asked Durno to take over, but the young Scot refused, feeling that it was too much responsibility for one so young, so new to the country and a tyro at the job.

Stewart's friends then held a council of war, and it was decided that Wm. Parslow, a rancher and stockyards operator, and a salesman of parts himself, and Ike Storey, horse dealer and contractor in Calgary, would constitute themselves a committee of two to make a further appeal. Under their powerful encouragement Durno finished the auction and began a career.

Twenty-four hours later Mr. Layzell's remark to his assistant was, "They tell me you are quite some auctioneer." Three months later his answer was to take a long trip to England, leaving the whole business in Bill Durno's hands.

Recognition came fast. Durno's services were demanded from further and further afield. In April 1913, two years after his debut, the Regina Exhibition Co. employed him to cry their spring sale in succession to Col. Robson, the Ontario livestock auctioneer, and dean of his fraternity in Canadian sale rings up to that time. Durno still treasures his Regina connection with something akin to sentiment. It took a Regina success to get him into the big time in his home town two years later. In 36 years he has missed only one Regina sale, and that because of illness!

THE auctioneering business was a broad avenue leading to large-scale horse trading for a man of Bill Durno's talents. He did a roaring business from the mid-war period to the mid-'20's. In his big barn at 4th St. East, and 4th Ave., 160 horses could be tied up at one time, not to mention the large numbers which could be accommodated in the adjacent corrals.

Durno quickly became the horse buyer for a number of coal mining and lumber companies, which required a continual recruitment of horse flesh to make good the wastage of their business. He was buyer for Fred Mannix for 14 years and when the Crowsnest Lumber Co. sold out their horses, out of 251, 250 had been bought by Durno. In one year Bill's turnover was $1¾ million, of which $30,000 stuck to his hands.

But the descent was just as dramatic. Industry and agriculture alike were bent on mechanization. Durno's personal liking for animals ruled his head. He stuck with the ship too long. In one year he lost more than he had made at the peak of the business. By 1925 he, and many others who had pinned their faith on animal power, were broke. For him it was the long road back to financial security via the auctioneer's box.

It was a road that took him through many memorable sales. At the Wade and Jack sale held at Irricana, $300,000 worth of stock passed through his hands. When the Noble Foundation mechanized its power units a quarter of a million dollars passed in review before his buyers. The sale of horses from the old Beddingfield ranch, before it passed into the ownership of the Duke of Windsor, was a high point in its time, and if the carloads of bronks sold for Jack and Pat Bowlen could have been put together they would have made a record total. It is a long string that stretches down to the 1948 Shorthorn sale of Claude Gallinger's at Edmonton, where 33 bulls were knocked down for $61,150 in a sale this auctioneer rates as his best.

IF the West had no further use for Durno's knowledge of draft horse husbandry after the '20's it could still profit by his cattle craft. In 1928 he became field man for the Dominion Shorthorn Association, covering the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. In 1932 he added Saskatchewan and Manitoba to his territory. It was a stewardship which was to last till 1947.

Through this fruitful association, the Calgary auctioneer probably made his greatest contribution to western livestock farming. It was his duty to visit breeders, large and small, and advise them on herd improvement. Nobody can estimate the number of small breeders who owe their advancement to Durno's sage counsel. It is a conservative statement to say that he put a hundred men on their feet. Here is the testimony of J. R. Bell, Manitoba's deputy minister of agriculture:

"Manitoba Shorthorn herds are better today than ever before, and a large part of the credit is due to the work of Mr. Durno. We have breeders in this province who have had purebred cattle for the best part of a lifetime, but it is only within the last few years they had stock good enough to take to Toronto."

And from Geo. H. Jones, manager of the Richardson Farms, comes praise with a different angle. "Durno was always a strong western man," says he. "Some eastern breeders used to regard the West as a dumping ground for their tail-enders. Durno set his face against that. While he knew pedigrees like devout folk know their Bible, he was never one to be fooled by a pedigree. He always insisted that an animal must have the individuality without which good herds cannot be built."

Although Bill Durno's official connection with the Shorthorn crowd in Alberta coincided with the years of deepest depression, 1930-1938, the same story is true. There are many breeders in Alberta today who will not buy a bull unless it has been seen by Durno, and this is true in breeds other than the Shorthorn. His greatest activity today is buying cattle of all beef breeds for breeders in Canada and the United States. The great Gallinger herd at Tofield was put to-

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gether by himself and Alex Mitchell acting as consultants to the owner, back in 1934, but Durno adds that Claude Gallinger needs no help from anyone else now.

Shorthorn magnate Gallinger reciprocates the compliment with the declaration that "The Guide cannot speak too favorably of the work Durno has done in this country in the interest of livestock. Until he went to work the Shorthorn breed in Alberta was on its way out. He has reversed the tide which is now running strongly in the other direction." Looks like a bit of mutual back-slapping, but the facts support it.

THE big annual event in Durno's life, so far as the general public can form an opinion, is the Calgary Bull Sale where it is usual for nearly a thousand bulls to change hands in three days' selling for a sum that approaches a million dollars. Three or four auctioneers rotate in half-hour spells. It is as much a spectacle as a sale. It is the biggest thing of its kind on the continent and is regarded as a barometer of the trade.

Durno is the dean of this corps of barkers and always leads off. Breeders are always pleased to have their cattle go through the ring while he is in the box. Without making invidious comparisons it may be said that there are auctioneers who can make more noise, and there are some who can talk faster, but no man who has ever cried a Canadian sale knows livestock values more accurately.

I clocked him at the last Calgary sale and found that he was selling 22 to 24 animals every 30 minutes that he worked, a faster rate than any of his collaborators. He can do it because he knows when he has reached the full value of an animal and he does not dwell any longer.

George Jones puts it well when comparing Durno's performance with that of some highly touted ring masters from the United States. "Some men," Jones says, "may get a few dollars more on some animals by persuading buyers to continue bidding after an animal's value has been reached, but Durno gets the last honest dollar." And surely that Scottish burr seems to belong in a livestock auction ring.

As the years pass by, the master is able to relax a little. He no longer cries every sale that falls into his lap, but contents himself with purebred livestock sales only. Order buying and a spot of show ring judging fill in his time. But his influence is stronger than ever and he has a few livestock lessons to impart yet.

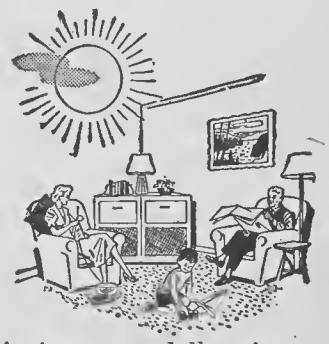
Ever willing to break a lance in a good cause, Bill Durno looks around at current Shorthorn fashions—no breed has suffered more in its day from passing fads—and avers that Shorthorn men are making a big mistake in their present breeding tendencies. "We are getting our Shorthorns too much like Aberdeen-Angus cattle," he says. "It is worse in the American Middle West than it is here. We ought to return to the size and scale that made Scotch Shorthorns famous the world around."

If he can lead a reaction back to old standards in this respect, Bill Durno could consider it a fitting climax to a life spent in furthering the cause of better livestock production.

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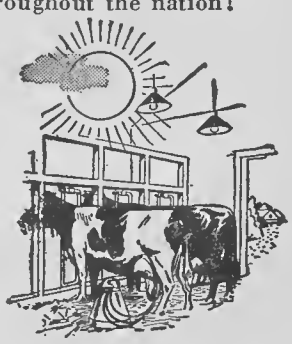
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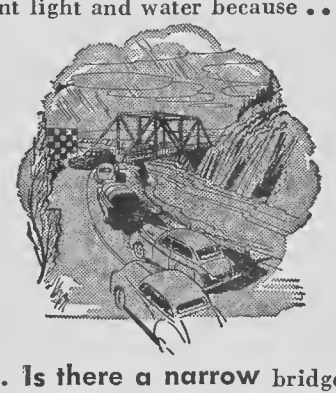
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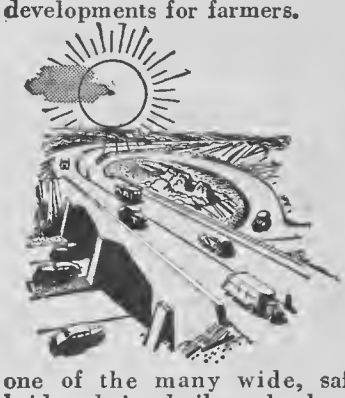
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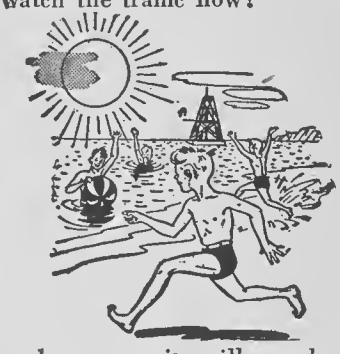
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one of the many wide, safe bridges being built — thanks to life insurance dollars—in places where they're needed. Then watch the traffic flow!



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The Proper Care of Pelts

Careless handling will reduce the quality and value of furs, and gaining experience can be fairly costly

by **B. G. ROBERTS**

MILLIONS of dollars have been lost to the trappers of America by not using proper methods when skinning, stretching and marketing the fur pelts, and a little time spent in caring for the returns from the trap line will more than pay for the effort expended.

There are two methods of skinning and stretching pelts and these are called "open" and "cased" from the manner in which the pelt is removed from the animal's carcass. As it is a hard matter to do a proper job of skinning and fleshing furs with a dull knife, the trapper should provide himself with a good skinning knife, and should keep it razor-sharp at all times.

Mink, otter, muskrat, fox, wildcat, lynx, wolf, weasel, marten, fisher, opossum, skunk, wolverine, northern raccoon, and coyote furs are "cased." Bear, beaver and southern raccoon are skinned "open."

To remove a "cased" skin, I split the inside of the hind legs from the feet to the vent and remove the hide from the legs, cutting skin off at the feet. Then I cut the skin loose around the base of the tail and skin the tail out to the tip, being sure to remove all the bone from the tail. If tail is hard to skin, I split a small stick and slip the split under the skin and astride of the tail bone. I grip the stick with my right hand, with the tail bone between the first and second fingers, and holding the skin with my left hand, I slip the skin from the tail bone.

After the tail is skinned, I split it open clear to the end for if this is not done, often grease will run down inside the tail in warm weather and it will become tainted and the hair will fall out, damaging the sale of the pelt.

After the tail is skinned, I pull the skin down over the body in the form of a glove with the fur on the inside until I reach the forelegs. I skin out the forelegs to the first joint and cut them off. Then I cut the skin loose from the skull at the ears and around the eyes and pull the skin off over the nose, with the fur inside. Most "cased" pelts are stretched with the flesh side out, but foxes should be stretched fur side out so it will be necessary to turn fox pelts after skinning them before stretching.

"Open" skins are split down the hind legs from the feet to the vent, and legs and tail are skinned as already described for "cased" pelts. Then I split the skin open in the centre of the body from the vent to the end of the lower jaw, and split the skin open on the inside of the front legs from the cut down centre of body to the first joint of legs. I cut the skin off at this joint, and peel the skin from the carcass in the form of an open rug, cutting skin loose at the ears and around the eyes.

"Open" skins should always be stretched with the flesh side out, and all surplus flesh or fat that remains on the pelt after it is removed from the carcass should be removed with a sharp knife before the skin is stretched. It is very easy to cut holes in the pelt when fleshing so the trapper should use care when removing flesh or fat to not cut the skin which damages the sale of the pelt.

Stretchers for "cased" furs may be bought from all dealers in trappers' supplies, or they may be made from wood by the trapper himself. I use some of the steel stretchers that are manufactured by trap companies, but also use many of the wooden stretchers I make myself. When using wooden stretchers, small nails (either 2d or 3d) will be needed for fastening the pelt to the stretchers. I select the proper size stretcher for the "cased" pelt and pull the skin on over the stretcher, with the back of the skin on one side and the belly on the other, and with the tail exactly in the centre of the stretcher. The skin is pulled tight until all the wrinkles are taken out, and tacked to the stretcher.

Skins should not be overstretched as this makes them too thin and lowers the grade. After skin is stretched, I go over it with a sharp knife and remove all surplus fat and flesh.

"Open" skins should be stretched on the inside of a wall or door, and bear and southern raccoon skins are stretched as near square as possible, using plenty of nails and driving them about two inches apart. Beaver pelts are stretched nearly round. "Open" furs that are stretched on the inside of a wall or door should be up out of the reach of rats or dogs or cats which might damage the skin. "Cased" skins are hung up in a cool, shady place and must never be dried in the sunshine or near a fire. No salt or other preparation should be used to cure furs, but they should dry naturally.

FURS should be allowed to remain on the stretchers until thoroughly dry which usually requires from ten days to two weeks, depending on the weather. If removed from the stretcher too soon, the skins will shrink and wrinkle and will not bring top prices. Skins dry quicker when the weather is dry and cold than they do if temperature is warm and moist.

Furs may be sold locally, or they may be shipped directly to the fur houses at the different fur-buying centres. Furs to be shipped must be perfectly dry as "green" furs will spoil while in transit. When preparing for shipment, I go over every skin and scrape all fat or grease from the pelt, and then tie each kind of skin in a bundle by itself, putting fox pelts in one bundle, mink skins in another, etc., and then after all of the different kinds of furs are tied in separate bundles, I tie them all together in one bundle. Small skins should never be placed inside larger ones or the grader may overlook them when grading the furs.

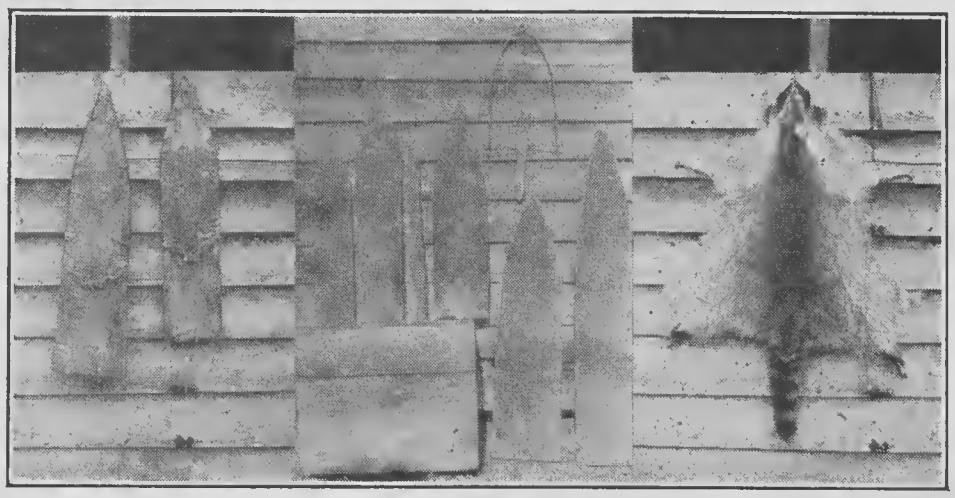
After furs are tied in a bundle, I tie a tag to one of the skins which gives the name and address of the shipper, and the number and kind of skins in the shipment. Then I tie or sew the furs secure in a new, clean burlap sack. Heavy boxes should not be used when shipping furs as the transportation charges will be too much.

After furs are packed, I tie or sew a tag to the outside of the package which gives the name and address of the company to which the furs are going; the name and address of the shipper; and the number and kind of skins in the shipment. Furs may be shipped by express or parcel post. If sent by express, charges may be paid by the company receiving the furs, and these transportation charges will usually be deducted from the shipper's cheque. If sent by mail, charges must be prepaid.

If furs are dry when shipped, most fur companies will hold furs separate until the shipper accepts the price paid if marked "Hold Separate." If furs are sent by express, any instructions regarding their handling should be placed inside the package. If sent by mail, instructions should be placed in a letter which is fastened to the outside of the package, and first-class postage must be paid on letter in addition to charges on furs. If furs are green when shipped, they cannot be held separate but must be marketed immediately.

When packing furs for shipment, they should be packed perfectly flat and should never be folded or rolled when packing. When tying in bundles for shipment, I tie the bundle in two places—about the shoulders and near the hips— but do not tie so tight as to wrinkle the skins.

Selling locally and shipping direct to fur houses, each method has its advantages and its disadvantages, but I believe in most cases the trapper will receive more for his furs by shipping them. I have shipped to many different buyers and have no certain company to recommend as most fur houses will give the shipper a fair deal. Companies that advertise in farm journals are usually reliable or they would not be allowed to use the columns of the papers for advertising, so shipment may be made to these companies.

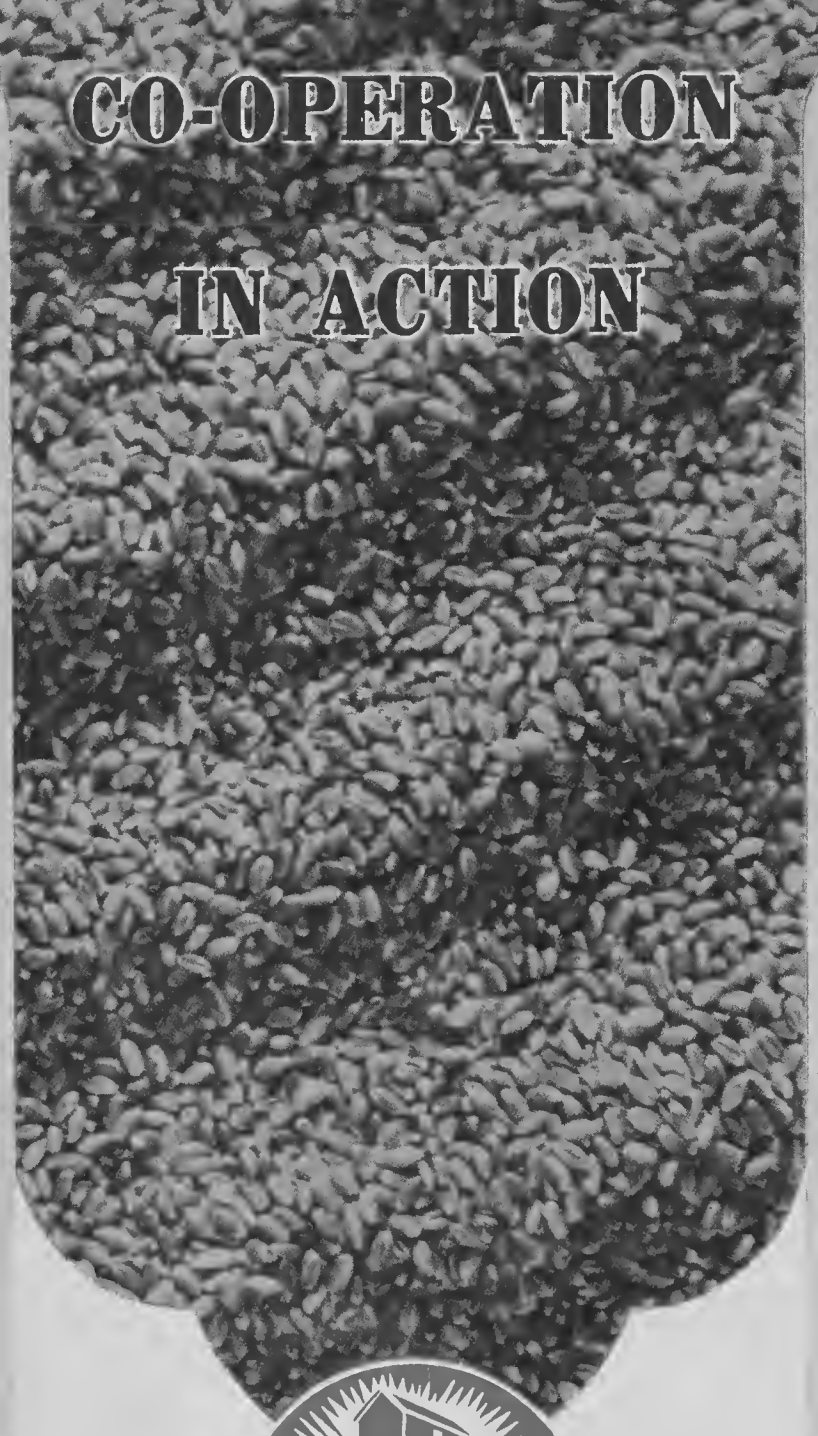


Left: Cased opossum pelts. Centre: Stretchers used for cased furs. Right: An open raccoon skin.

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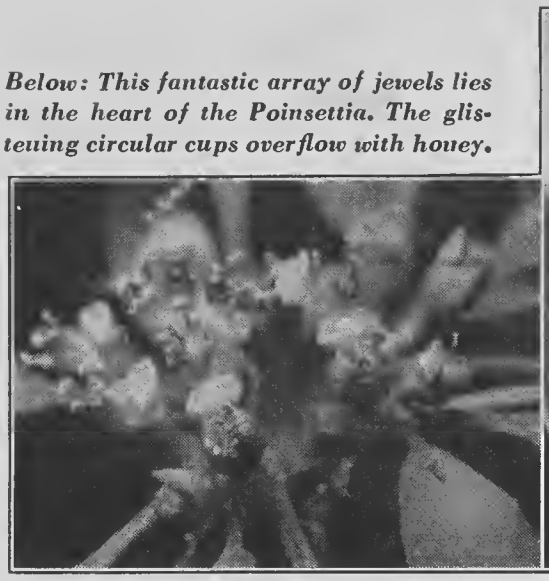
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Below: This fantastic array of jewels lies in the heart of the Poinsettia. The glistening circular cups overflow with honey.





Below: This crown of gold is the ring of stamens surrounding the stigma of the Japonica or Flowering Quince.



Above centre: If we were able to enter the flower of an Angel's Trumpet, as insects do, this is what we would see.

WONDER WORLDS *of the garden*

by PAUL HADLEY

A magnifying glass reveals some of the fascinating forms in every garden that we otherwise brush thoughtlessly aside

BEAUTIFUL though the flowers that bloom in our gardens appear to our eyes, if by some magic we were to be suddenly reduced in size to that of the bees or butterflies, we would see these familiar objects in a much different aspect. Instead of seeing them as small, delicate affairs, we would see these blossoms as huge objects many times our size; in some cases large enough to serve as shelters for ourselves and our families. But we would see many other beautiful and strange things, too, that we now overlook due to their relatively small size.

Not only the flowers of the ornamental plants that we use to decorate or lawns, but the flowers of many of our garden vegetables would also reveal to us strange, new worlds—beautiful worlds filled with color and with strange, exotic forms.

Entering the hearts of these flowers, we would find ourselves surrounded by the many parts of the flowers that we now call the stamens, anthers, pistils, stigmas, or other names common in botany. Some of them, such as the stamens of a lily, would be huge, towering pillars that would reach far above our heads, and topped with strange mushroom-like growths (anthers). A poppy would show us a huge ring consisting of several hundred stamens, each tipped with a pollen-filled anther, each of which would shower us with the golden powder when we would brush against it. If it were the bloom of a hibiscus, we would find a golden "tree" in its centre, the collective stamens and stigma grown together to make one bizarre structure. In the vegetable garden, if we were to visit the huge, golden cornucopias that bloom upon the vines of a pumpkin or a squash, we would find there were *two* kinds of flowers, one, which botanists call the "staminate," having a central pillar or stamen resembling a golden "barber-pole," covered with pollen grains. The other, or "pistillate," would have an irregular shaped, mushroom-like stigma in the centre. This is the bloom which produces the squash or pumpkin, which can be seen already formed on the stem outside the flower.

This is not a strange caterpillar, but the beard of an iris bloom. Each of the three falls of a German Iris has this beard.

UPON examining the stamen and pistil arrangements carefully, one will find that all the members of the same plant family have some peculiarity in common that makes them easily recognizable. One would, for instance, never think of the clovers as belonging to the same family as the huge locust trees; or the potato, the tomato, and the wild nightshades as belonging to the same family, but an examination of their flowers would show us that they were very close relatives!

Yes, the wonder-worlds of the flowers would prove very fascinating to us, if we were to see them through the eyes of the insects who visit the blossoms. But this difference in size might not be the only strange difference we would see. Scientists think that possibly the insect's eyes are capable of seeing the ultra-violet rays in the sun's light to which our eyes are not sensitive, and this would make most of the flowers glow with strange new colors which they do not ordinarily reveal to our eyes. In experiments, by flooding flowers with ultra-violet light, we have found them to glow with color entirely different than that they present when in ordinary sunlight.

A powerful magnifying glass, or a microscope, is a handy and interesting thing to take to the flower garden. A study of the ways of flowers is a fascinating hobby. It is a hobby which has proved so interesting that many of the world's great men have adopted it as a lifetime work, and many are the wonderful things they have done as a result of these studies in improving and changing the flowers and fruits of wild plants into the marvellous ones we now see in our gardens.

The staminate flower of the pumpkin laden with the golden dust which carries on the life cycle.





The pistillate blossom of the pumpkin. A tiny pumpkin is seen below the bud as soon as it is fertilized.



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Summerfallows

Continued from page 11

chance to compare each other's methods of tillage and the various combinations of machines being used. General discussion of the fields will be conducted by the judge at the Abernethy Seed Fair and some valuable lessons are expected to be brought to light.

Future competitions are likely to be more exacting as interest becomes keener. It is hoped that the entries may be submitted in the fall and judged at irregular intervals throughout the year. If possible, records will be kept of the time and dates of each operation and prizes will not be awarded until the crop is harvested from the competing fields--permitting an analysis of the ultimate result.

Farmers in the area welcome the chance to compete and learn more of their local problems. "I never realized the value of shallow cultivation before," said one operator, "it not only reduces the cost of my field operations but sure seems to help in the conservation of the little bit of moisture we do get." The practice of scraping away the top-soil and looking at what is underneath will no doubt be more common in the district now. It should result in better work and better crops.

World Calendar

The choice from 500 proposals

LAST March a bill was introduced to the American Congress asking that the World Calendar be made the official calendar of the United States. This Bill is due to come up soon in the United Nations Assembly.

Revision of the present Gregorian Calendar has been under study for many years and over 500 proposals were submitted to the League of Nations; the World Calendar is the only survivor. It has active support from 41 nations of the world and has been endorsed by outstanding business leaders, government authorities, scientists, international organizations and laymen.

The World Calendar is uniform and stable, perpetuating from year to year. It contains 12 months with the four quarters always equal; each has three months, 13 weeks and 91 days. Quarters begin Sunday and end Saturday. Each month contains 26 working days plus Sundays. Days and dates agree from year to year and holidays are permanently fixed. This perpetual calendar offers harmony and order to all strata of society; in fact, it would permit of an exact comparability of dates and periods of any years.

When the 52 weeks of the year are divided equally, one day remains. It has been placed after December 30, is a world holiday and thus maintains the equalibrium of quarters. Leapyear Day (another world holiday) would follow June 30 every fourth year. January, April, July and October would each start on Sunday and each contain 31 days. February, May, August and November would contain 30 days, each starting on Wednesday. March, June, September and December would be 30-day months, starting on Friday. It is interesting to think of the changes the World Calendar would produce and the harmony that would obtain.



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Uncle Sam

Continued from page 9

its accompanying industries, agriculture had been the predominant industry of the nation up to 1860. After the Civil War, industry and enterprise had their great opportunity, but in making use of this opportunity the position of agriculture was weakened and the farmer forced on the defensive. "The change," to quote one historian, "with all its revolutionary implications for future development, brought a dynamic, collectivist, urban society in place of a static, individualist, rural pattern."

Three acts of Congress in 1862 also constituted landmarks in the history of agriculture. The first was the passage of the Homestead Act. The South had opposed internal development and free western land. The Homestead Act resulted from an election promise of the Republican Party to provide free land, which helped them to gain control of the Congress. The second act was the creation of the United States Department of Agriculture; and the third, the passage of the Morrill Act. This act set aside public lands on the basis of 30,000 acres for each state representative to the Congress, the proceeds from which were to be used for the establishment of Land Grant Colleges. These events, coupled with the appearance of the first gang and sulky plows, the organization of The Grange in 1867, and the completion of the Union-Pacific Railroad in 1869, set the pace for a period of remarkable expansion.

The new railroad provided convenient transportation all the way to the Pacific and carried western farm products to eastern markets. It also carried buffalo hunters westward, who killed off the buffalo and opened the way for the plowing up of the prairies, and for the establishment of vast cattle ranges. From 1870 to 1890 was the romantic period of the beef industry. This period lasted until it was curtailed, not only by drought and overgrazing, but by the influx of settlers moving westward into the range land. Thus the railroad, which had been a boon to the cattle industry, in turn led to the transformation of the great open ranges into the ranching business more or less as we know it today. This was the glamorous period of the beef industry, still famous in song and story.

By the late seventies, farm exports reached $525.5 million or 78.8 per cent of total exports. By 1880 the average farmer's equity in his land was only 62 per cent, to be further reduced by four per cent per decade for 50 years. By 1890 he could grow an acre of wheat with 8-10 hours of man labor and an acre of corn with 14-16 man hours. Between 1860 and 1900 more land was acquired by purchase than by homesteading; nevertheless, more than 400 million acres were added to Uncle Sam's national farm plant during this period.

By 1900 agriculture employed only 35.7 per cent of all gainfully employed persons, but farm exports averaged $757 million. Cereals accounted for almost half of the total crop value; wool production had increased five times and cotton nearly three times since 1860. The peak of corn export was reached at 212 million bushels about the turn of the century, and wheat exports at 239 million bushels. Meat exports accounted for $179 million annually.

By 1900 also, the population had increased to 75 million; and immigration during the nineties had averaged 368,000 per year. A system of experiment stations had been authorized in 1887, which were to be associated with the Land Grant Colleges. New farm equipment appeared on the market, including the cream separator, the Babcock tester and the springtooth harrows, as well as horse-drawn combines on the Pacific coast. Despite these aids to production the farm situation was disturbing.

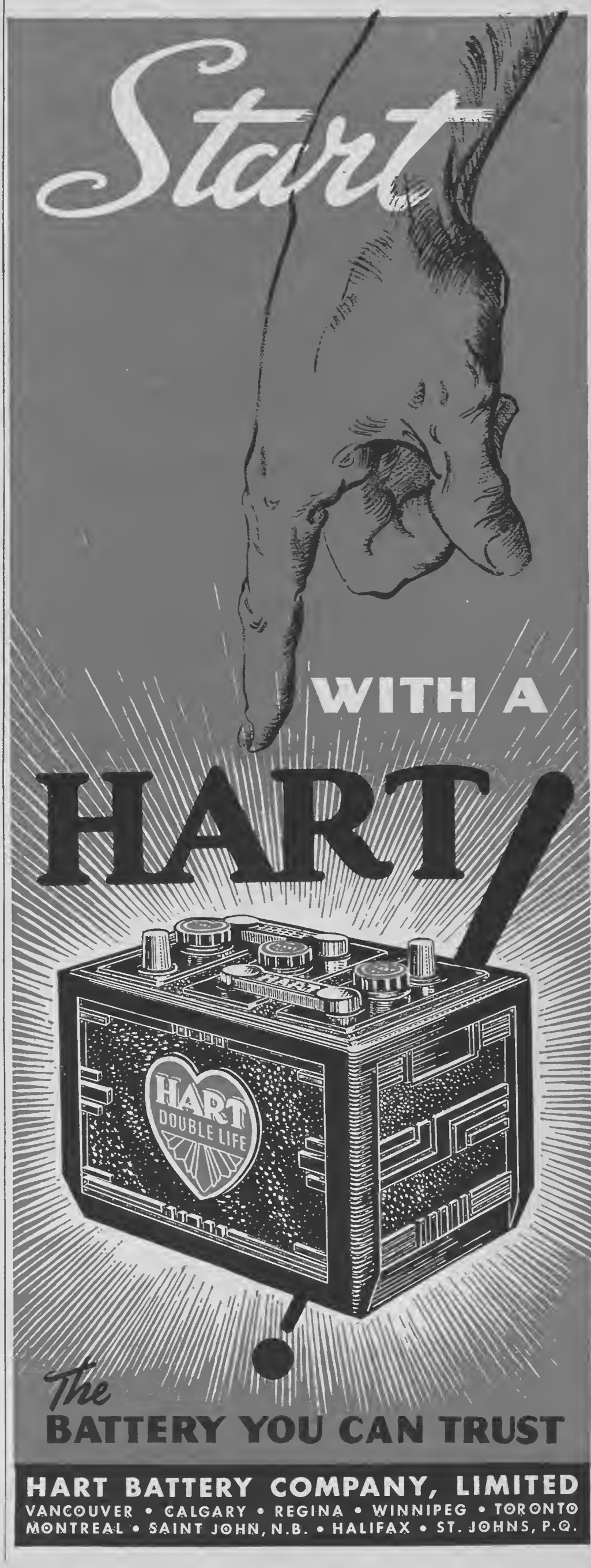
AFTER the Civil War the farmer's situation had become unenviable, and he was unhappy. The rapid growth of both cities and industries brought him both markets and headaches. Farming became commercialized and competitive. The farmer was caught in the toils of a vast system of industry, finance, trade and commerce, to which he was unaccustomed. The Morrill Tariff Act of 1861, the McKinley Tariff of 1890, the Dingley Tariff of 1897 and later the Payne-Aldrich Act of 1909, successively raised tariffs to higher and higher levels. Gradually, too, the farmer found himself competing on world markets with Russia, Argentina, and Australia. He bought more machines to increase production, but it seemed that his surpluses only grew larger, his prices sagged and relative profits decreased.

No longer could farm products be delivered direct to the consumer. New marketing agencies appeared—boards of trade, commission agencies, speculators, futures markets, and pooling associations formed by middlemen for fixing prices—none of which he was able to control. The railroad which transported his goods to market and opened up the country, had brought with it many abuses by railway management. Farm credit, too, was insufficient and often obtainable only from loan sharks at high rates of interest.

The farmer was advised to cut his production to suit his markets, but how could he do it? He was only one of many thousands of other small farmers like himself. Nevertheless, some form of organization was clearly necessary, however difficult.

With the formation of the first Grange in 1867, an era of intensive farm organization had set in. The Grange was a secret and fraternal organization, but it found itself inevitably drawn into the economic problems of its members. It sanctioned the first Grange co-operative association in 1871, and by 1874 the number of Granges had grown to 20,000. Grange members had also sponsored political organizations outside the Grange, and had been responsible for electing hundreds of individuals to various public offices and legislatures in at least 11 western states. By 1880, however, the number of Granges dropped to 4,000, due partly to too rapid growth, the influence on Grange policies by politicians, as well as to a general lowering of freight rates and an increase in the prices of farm products.

Alongside the Granges in the seventies grew up numbers of farmers' clubs. These later affiliated into state alliances, which in 1887 became The National Farmers' Alliance and Co-



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operative Union of America. A year later, this organization absorbed The Agricultural Wheel, of Arkansas. The enlarged organization advocated a scheme under which the Federal government would establish warehouses for non-perishable farm commodities and make loans to farmers up to 80 per cent of the value of the goods deposited in the warehouses. The loans were to be redeemable within a year.

The currency question, also, was very much to the fore after the Civil War. The Greenback movement began in 1874 with an agrarian group, and was to plague the farmers' movement for more than 20 years. Farmers' political groups were organized both in the North and South, culminating finally in the Populist Party, launched in co-operation with labor, in 1892. A supreme political effort was made in 1896. In that year, aligning themselves with the silver faction of the Democratic Party, the farm organizations helped to poll 6½ million votes for Willian Jennings Bryan, the Democratic presidential candidate. The Populist Party went down to defeat with Bryan, and finally expired in 1912.

MEANWHILE, farmers had continued to experiment with the co-operative method of solving at least some of their problems. After the retreat of the Granges in the seventies, a new wave of co-operatives developed in the eighties and a further expansion occurred after 1895. Despite four financial panics, which occurred over a period of 20 years—in 1893, 1904, 1907, 1913—and a boom in dry farming, which began about 1904, U.S. farmers tried to meet competition with still more organizations. In 1902, the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union (Farmers' Union) was formed in Texas, and the American Society of Equity in Indiana. Three years later the California Fruit Growers' Exchange was formed. In 1915 came the Non-Partisan League, to be followed in 1920 by the American Farm Bureau Federation. This organization had been heralded by the first farm bureau, organized in Broome County, New York, in 1911. Three years later the Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, which provided Federal funds for the development of a co-operative Federal, state and county extension service, to be allocated proportionately to every state willing to co-operate, and to each county organizing a farm bureau with a specified number of members. In 1914 also, the Clayton Anti-Trust Act specifically exempted co-operatives from prosecution as monopolies in restraint of trade. This was the first occasion upon which the co-operative movement had been blessed by the Federal government.

Farm science may be said to have first come appreciably to the aid of the American farmer in the eighties. It was during this period that the carrier of tick fever was discovered, the tubercle bacillus isolated and Bordeaux mixture first introduced (France). After 1900 came a serum for hog cholera, as well as the gene theory of inheritance. Marquis wheat was introduced in 1912 and Kansas Red Winter wheat in 1917. In 1915, big open-geared tractors, to plow and till more land to grow more crops, added further to the complexity of the farm problem.

IT was in 1916 that the Congress made its first practical attempt to deal with the special problems of agriculture. In that year the Federal Farm Loans Act was passed, which called for the creation of 12 regional farm loan banks to provide long-term credit at moderate rates of interest. Some further amend was made to agriculture the following year by the Smith-Hughes Act, which provided funds for the teaching of vocational agriculture in high schools.

In August 1914, World War I began. It created a period of prosperity for the farmer which lasted until June of 1920. Prices zoomed and production soared to unprecedented heights. In 1919, when the war ended, expectation was general that a greatly increased demand for food would arise from foreign countries. This would, it was thought, be caused by the removal of restrictions on consumption which had been borne in some degree by the entire world during the war years. In expectation of continued world demand, prices of farm products and of land had risen to unprecedented heights. Farms were heavily mortgaged, both for land and machinery.

Farm prices broke without warning in mid-1920, the index figures dropping 40 points in three months. The sudden drop hit the U.S. farmer about harvest time and protests were both vociferous and long continued. Non-agricultural prices showed no noticeable change for some months, and the increasing and alarming disparity between farm prices and costs caused much concern among farmers and their organizations.

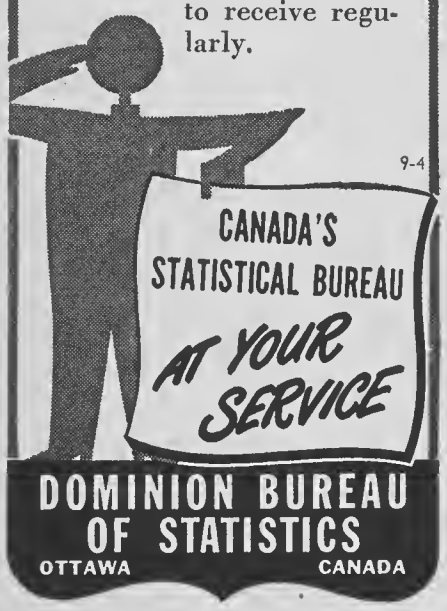
It was at this point that a new upsurge of farm organizations began. Out of this new emphasis on organization came a persistent pressure on lawmakers and administrators, which has continued almost without interruption to the present day. Further abnormal circumstances were created by the disastrous economic crisis of the thirties and by the war and post-war conditions incidental to World War II. If this pressure has helped to keep the problems of agriculture before the legislators of the nation, it has also helped to effect the "shotgun" marriage already referred to. Indeed, some farm organizations have come to question both the high prices maintained or proposed under government programs, and the regimentation involved in farm price supports.

NO immediate Congressional action followed the slump of 1920. In May, 1921, the new Congress created a Joint Commission of Agricultural Inquiry, and found that the farmers' purchasing power was only 77 per cent of pre-war. They found that several causes contributed to the price slump, but declared that over-production was not important among them. After making several recommendations with respect to roads, co-operation, credit and similar matters, the Joint Commission concluded that while a readjustment of commodity prices was necessary if confidence was to be renewed and prosperity restored, such adjustment "cannot be brought about by legislative formulas, but must be the result for the most part of the interplay of economic forces."

President Harding also called a National Agricultural Conference in January, 1922. This conference made

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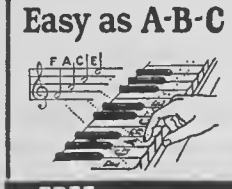
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scores of recommendations and favored higher tariffs, foreign credits to facilitate export, intermediate credits for farmers, price stabilization through co-operative marketing associations, and other crutches for the crippled farm industry. Its most notable action, however, was to suggest an idea, largely upon the insistence of George N. Peek, an active leader of farm forces. This idea was later embodied in the slogan "Equality for Agriculture." In support of the idea one statement in the conference report read as follows:

"The conference declares that no revival of American business is possible until the farmer's dollar is restored to its normal purchasing power when expressed in the prices paid for the commodities which the farmer must purchase; and the conference further declares that by right the men engaged in the agricultural field are entitled to a larger return than they have heretofore received for the service they give society."

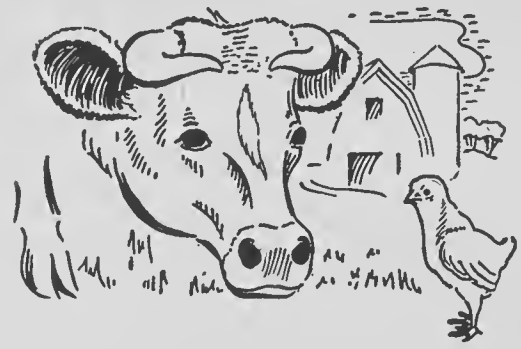
Meanwhile, from December 1921 on, a proposal was developing as a surplus disposal plan, which finally emerged in January 1924, as the McNary-Haugen Bill. Discussions and agitations surrounded this proposal until the bills were finally disposed of by Presidential veto in 1927 and again in 1928.

BY 1928 agricultural policy was a matter of first importance in both of the major political parties. The farmer had been promised higher tariffs which the Smoot-Hawley Act provided generously within a year or two. He was also promised a general farm bill. In 1929 the Agricultural Marketing Act was passed, creating the Federal Farm Board. The function of this board was to supply marketing machinery, which would put agriculture on a footing with other industries. It undertook to encourage co-operatives and stabilization corporations, if the latter were established and owned by co-operatives. It had a $500 million revolving fund to work with and with this equipment it attempted to stabilize and to support farm prices.

The period in which the Federal Farm Board was forced to act, however, was that of a world depression of a severity never before experienced. As a result, the operations of the stabilization corporations created very heavy losses for the Federal Farm Board. The board soon began to realize that production must be held in line with actual market demand, otherwise the principle of withholding supplies from the market could not be made effective.

The depression of the thirties forced further action by the Congress. In 1919, capital invested in agriculture had amounted to $79 billion, but by 1933, this figure had been reduced to $38 billion. Farm debts had remained practically unchanged. When the Congress attempted to find out what should be done, each of the three major farm organizations sponsored a different proposal. The Grange supported an export debenture plan; the Farmers' Union had a cost-of-production goal; and the Farm Bureau still plugged for an equalization-fee-surplus-disposal program. However, in 1933 the first Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA or Triple A) was passed, in the shaping of which farm

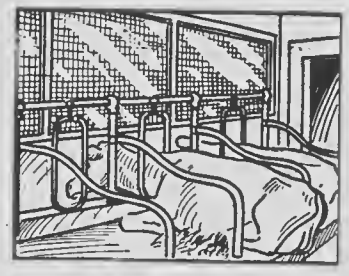
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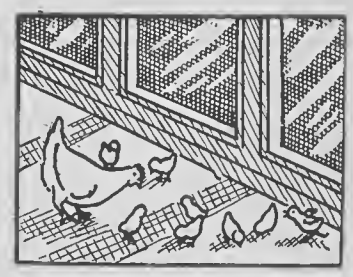
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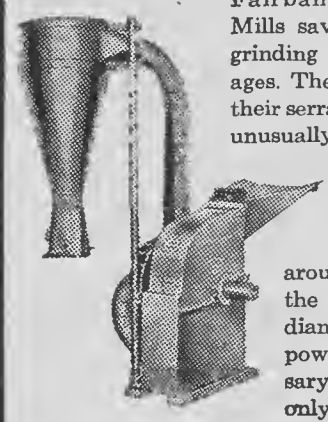
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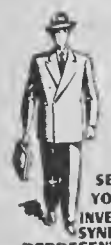
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economists took a hand and farm leaders became more willing to co-operate. Farm co-operatives had become convinced that they alone could not hope to maintain and stabilize farm prices.

Under the Triple A of 1933, millions of farmers entered into contracts to reduce acreage in specified surplus crops. In return they received benefit payments to be financed by processing taxes on the commodity concerned. In 1936, this Act was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States, with respect to the processing tax. This judgment led then to the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936 and to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. The emphasis was shifted from acreage control to soil conservation; direct appropriations replaced processing taxes; the original contract was done away with, and conditional payments, which were to accompany certain soil saving practices, replaced the benefit payments. The Act of 1936, too, was ineffective in maintaining satisfactory acreage control, which failure led to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. This Act involved the consideration and use of (1) soil conservation, good soil management and balanced output, (2) loans, marketing quotas and parity payments, (3) marketing agreements, (4) diversion of surplus production and the development of new uses for agricultural products, and (5) crop insurance.

IT is not the purpose of this article to discuss this and more recent acts in detail. It is important, however, to note two important developments which had been taking place within the agricultural economy of the country. First was the increase of farm tenancy, which had risen to 42 per cent of all U.S. farms. Second, was the fact that only about 50 per cent of U.S. farmers were "commercial" farmers. In other words only about half of the farmers could produce a sufficient quantity of farm products to be able to market any substantial quantity over and above their own needs.

Since 1916, when the Federal Farm Loan Act was passed, something like thirty pieces of legislation, in addition to many amendments, have had a direct bearing on the farmer's economic situation. Of these, half a dozen or more principal acts have succeeded the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. The latest at the time of writing is the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1948, with 1949 legislation imminent. The proposal of Secretary Brannan made in April of this year (Country Guide, June 1949) has probably created more discussion on the general subject of farm supports and farm policy in general than any controversy since that which accompanied the McNary-Haugen proposals of the mid-twenties.

United States farm support legislation for the last quarter century has brought into use many previously untried devices. Administrative problems have become difficult and the cost very substantial. Diverse regional requirements and points of view, plus political pressures, have engendered some waste and much argument. A further article will discuss in greater detail the philosophical, political, and economic approaches to the problem during this period.

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The Countrywoman

Overtones

by William Alexander Percy

I heard a bird at break of day
Sing from the autumn trees
A song so mystical and calm
So full of certainties
No man I think could listen long
Except upon his knees
Yet this was but a simple bird
Alone, among dead trees.

The Grandmothers' Parade

A PLEASANT and interesting incident happened in Winnipeg on an afternoon in early June. Some 20 women, who proudly laid claim to the title of "grandmother," attired in old-fashioned gowns, sauntered slowly down Portage Avenue. They were in holiday mood, quite prepared to add to the gaiety and join wholeheartedly in the celebration of Winnipeg's 75th Birthday Week. The impromptu stroll was not listed on the printed program of the week's features. It missed special press notice as news reporters were busy elsewhere covering the scheduled events. It added an unusual and unexpected bit of feminine charm and grace to a drab business street, where visitors and citizens were hurrying along, intent on their own interests.

The participants were surprised and flattered by the delighted attention paid to their leisurely parade. People stopped to watch their progress. There were warm smiles and many comments from onlookers. "Aren't they lovely!" "Who are they?" When they attempted to cross from one side of the street to the other, an obliging policeman halted the traffic, until they were safely across. They were warned not to hurry unduly. They went into and out of one large departmental store, and then in and out of some of the larger ladies'-wear shops along the street, while admiring shop girls and customers alike stopped to gaze and comment on their gowns.

WORD of their approach must have reached the second large departmental store in advance of their arrival. They were greeted by store officials and a way was cleared for them to stately parade down some of the main aisles. Then in a manner befitting their years and their estate, they were entertained to tea, photographed and sent safely home in taxis at the store's expense. Altogether it had been a pleasant and exciting afternoon for the grandmothers whose ages ranged from 78 to 45 years.

The group were members of Norwood United Church, located in a suburban area of Greater Winnipeg. That they had carried off their June-day experience with such aplomb was due in no small measure to the fact that they had accustomed themselves to public appearance as a group. They had in fact appeared on numerous occasions in a three-act play, written by the wife of their pastor, Mrs. John Stewart, entitled "Grammas Present." It had been presented first in 1948 in Norwood United Church and later in other churches in and around Winnipeg. They had been invited as a troupe to visit country points.

The first act of "Grammas Present" showed a scene laid in Winnipeg of 1882. The dialogue and action turned around outstanding events and characters of that day. It closed with the players doing an old-fashioned minuet. The second act was a scene laid in Norwood in 1906 and brought out the story of the starting of their own church, depicted by means of monologues, solos and duets. The third act took a tableau form against a background of a tall church window. A commentator's voice told the story which symbolized three spirits, representing protestant churches; Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregationalist brought together through union into the United Church. A fitting tribute was paid to the young women of the church of today. The finale came with all the cast joining in chorus in the last verse of the hymn "Onward Then Ye People."



Norwood ladies in costumes worn in three-act play "Grammas Present."

Lighter views of ladies in holiday mood and some thoughts concerning the pursuit of educational topics

by AMY J. ROE

The World Is So Full

THE fellow who said, "Life gets tedjus, don't it?" wasn't doing anything to make it more interesting. Are you?

Consider your provincial university, for instance. "I'm no university student," you may think, but perhaps you should be. "What! leave my home and go traipsing off to the university?" No, but your university has an Extension Department, which is willing to help you. No matter where your interests lie, they will send you books on your chosen subject.

One of the best ways to broaden your mind, keep from empty gossip and provide entertainment for long winter evenings is to start a study group. The Extension Department has a long list of subjects ranging from Child Guidance to Political Economy. Ten is a good number to have in your group, but a few more or less makes no difference. The procedure is simple. A group leader is chosen, The Department sends you books. Each member takes a book and a list of questions which he must be prepared to answer at the next meeting. These answers can lead to some lively discussion. Meetings are generally held in members' homes, but if held in some public place, such as a schoolroom, they are less likely to turn into purely social affairs with elaborate refreshments. Make it a rule that if there are any "eats" they must be simple.

Another service offered by the Extension Department is that of helping you to put on plays. At least the writer knows this service is offered in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and no doubt it is in other provinces. In the latter province, for a registration cost of $1.00 per year one may obtain a continuous supply of books and plays from the play lending library. They will supply you with any type of play you wish to produce, even all-women plays. (For some reason women seem to be more interested than men.)

If you are interested in a dramatic club, get a few people to put on a short play. Do not charge much and try to get the whole community out. This gives you a chance to sell the idea and while the wave of enthusiasm is at its crest, invite all interested to a meeting to form a dramatic club.

Do you belong to a Parent-Teacher (Home and School) Association? The Extension Department of the University of British Columbia has kits for P.T.A. meetings compiled in co-operation with the Parent Teacher Federation. One kit, for instance, deals with the question, "What does our community offer its children?" The leader is introduced to sources of information and told how to conduct the discussion. Quiz sheets to be handed to members are supplied. These ask some searching questions, which will certainly make the members think what could be done for the young people of the community.

Another service available to P.T.A.'s is the rental of films from the film library of the University. If you have a projector you will want to use this service frequently as the rental is low.

Perhaps you prefer or are forced to study by yourself. Have you considered correspondence courses? British Columbia High School Correspondence Instruction (Weiler Building, Victoria, B.C.) is available to residents of all provinces, but doubtless every province has a similar service. A course of twenty lessons will only cost $5.00 or $8.00. You name your own subject, whether it is journalism, glove making or air navigation. One can even start on a university course.

Do you make good use of your radio? We should be proud of the CBC. It has again taken top honors for the best educational programs in North America. Consider the school broadcasts. They are designed for children, but would you dare to say you couldn't learn something from them? The various "forums" provide food for thought and can be combined with your study group work.—Addis Mill.

Bertha Oxner Retires

DURING the last week of August, Saskatchewan friends and associates bade farewell to a woman, who for the past 19 years has been an active and leading figure in rural women's organizations, in university circles and in the council of many provincial and national committees. Miss Bertha G. Oxner, who since 1930 has been director of women's work, extension department, University of Saskatchewan, retired from active service and left for her old family home in Chester, N.S., where it is hoped that she may enjoy many years of well-earned rest and leisure amid pleasant and happy surroundings.

As secretary of Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs, Miss Oxner was in direct contact with and greatly influenced many country women in study and activity. As director of women's work that influence was extended to a still wider circle. When she sat in with other organizations and policy-making boards, hers was the privilege and the responsibility of speaking for and reporting back to rural women and men, in a province which is predominantly rural in thought and outlook. The period during which she carried these responsibilities was marked by two of the most trying experiences in Saskatchewan's history: the depression of the 1930's and World War II.

To list the committees, boards and organizations on which Miss Oxner served seems almost a roll call of leading educational bodies active in the past two decades: Homemaking courses and schools for women and girls in the province, Canadian youth commission, youth training, physical fitness council, technical education, farm housing, agricultural representative service, library service, Canadian Association for Adult Education, Farm Radio Forum, CBC Citizens' Forum, Canadian Home Economic Association, Canadian Consumers' Association and the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

Porcupine Papoose



Eleanor and baby Ian, who at age of nine days had his first sleigh ride.

Little did I realize that before we were through having our Porcupine Hill baby, planned 1949 model, March delivery, that everyone would be in the act and would require team work of a high order to meet the emergency

by GRAY CAMPBELL

IF you live high up in the Porcupine Hills of Southern Alberta and your wife wants to have another baby, you think twice about the idea. In fact you think about it long and hard, considering all the angles. Especially if you are a greenhorn starting out on the cattle ranch you have always wanted and have gone through enough anxious days and long, sleepless nights to get. You don't want any doubtful incident to crop up that might throw out of balance the delicate scales weighing the odds of success or failure.

Eleanor's arguments can be convincing, especially when she has a long string of victories behind her. She has the happy faculty of making everything work out the way she wants it to. But her argument was only based on one female proposition. We have the perfect spread for bringing up kids; we are happy and busy doing the things we have always wanted to do and it would be extremely selfish not to share the fun with another little papoose. So goes the argument of a woman! She did not elaborate but the theme of being selfish rankled. She thought the work would not suffer too much, in fact we would hardly notice another baby in the set-up with two active little cowboys, and she insisted there was enough love to go around.

I had to think of the economic side first. A baby would certainly set us back financially. We had sacrificed personal comfort to getting a start with stock and equipment. The roof needs shingling and the living room is still unfurnished. I had been thinking of a set of harness for the team too and plans for a second saddle horse would have to be shelved. How much more would our program be disrupted so that I would not be accused of selfishness? I kept thinking the thing over while riding the hills working cattle and tried to avoid discussing the subject with my single-minded squaw.

Eleanor had not included an obvious clincher to her argument. Our home is in Alberta, a province which encourages the appearance of babies by paying the hospital bill in maternity cases. That meant we wouldn't have to worry the first two weeks! Then we heard about the Health Society of Pincher Creek where the nearest hospital is located. We could join as a family for $40. That plan would see us through sickness, accidents, operations up to a certain amount for one year. The secretary, Mr. Graham, who runs a barber shop in Pincher Creek, said the society would take care of part of the doctor's bill for a maternity case.

It began to look possible on the economic side. But the second consideration, and the most important one, was Eleanor. She said it was all nonsense about having a baby being hard on a woman and aging her. She pointed to classic examples in the district and said she would just have to be sensible about not overworking. Besides she thought a family of five would be perfect. She wanted to have her family around her while she was still young enough to be included in their play and schemes. Dane was born during the war so she could have something permanent from a wartime marriage. Timmy was born because she wanted a playmate for Dane and was apprehensive that an only child would be spoiled. Now she thought that another one would be good for Timmy and remove him from the danger of being the youngest in the family.

WHILE still at the discussion stage I saddled Pete one day and fogged down the valley to visit my good friend Gus. He was by way of being an expert on these matters. Gus had come out from France about 40 years ago to work as a miner in the Blairmore district. Getting a stake in the mines where he turned out more coal on contract than most men twice his size, he had turned his hand to farming in the Porcupines. From the start Gus had kept a fatherly eye upon our ranching venture, with sound advice and much material help that eased us over many a rough spot We seemed to be his particular charges. He consistently tried to shield us from the reverses he had suffered. "Sometimes," he says, "I no got 25 cents on the pocket. I work hard and we eat and when I get a chance to buy some land I go to the lawyer and say 'You fix the paper, I get the crop and I pay for the land.' And the lawyer he says 'Gus I fix'."

GUS has a good spread now. If you think hard work shows on a man you should see him now at 62 years and watch him put in an ordinary day. In spite of his own busy season he always had time to run up here. If he noticed we were going to take ten days to get out green feed stacked with snow threatening to pin it down in the fields, he would arrive at daybreak next morning with two teams and racks and a son in tow. And we would slap the stacks up in a couple of days. "How much is that Gus?" "No matter how much, you should be have the feed up and it's done. You no pay me for that. Some dav I get stuck and you help me." And so it goes. We don't keep a record except in our hearts and it makes for a happy community. You share the good and the bad. But I am glad to say that we try to keep the score balanced. The hills are full of neighbors like Gus.

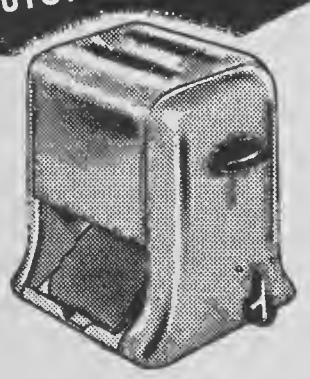
He is the expert for the current problem. He is surrounded by children large and small, seven of them ranging from 25 years to a baby of two. As I rode into the yard I noticed Gus wading through the kids to feed his pigs. He waved a greeting and we went to the corral to talk. I told him that Eleanor wanted another baby and I think it wise to wait until we have a couple more years behind us. Gus looked indignant. "You shouldn't worry about having kids on the farm, you know. I tell you it is easy. Maybe you milk another cow, raise a few more chickens, put some more potatoes in the garden, grow more vegetables. I tell you that. No, you don't worry about the kids. That is easy. You only worry when they grow up."

It sounded simple enough so I had another talk with Eleanor. In the city you decide which hospital you wish to patronize and the doctor you would like, always on tap at the other end of the telephone. You have the corner drug store to supply your needs, friends to pamper you and help to be obtained. In our country you wonder if you are going to be able to get to a doctor or hospital when the chips are down and if you can make two or three trips out before the event. You also take into account how you are going to meet the emergency if you cannot span the 21 miles.

The first thing to decide was when to have the baby. Eleanor's idea was to rule out spring because the gardening, chicks and ducklings are her special department and the calves arriving would conflict with her own event. In the summer there is brand ing, haying and threshing with extra help and she couldn't imagine taking time off. In the fall there are the cattle drives and movement to winter range and the activity in throwing a diamond hitch around the place before winter storms can strike. We agreed that March would be best, with a fighting chance of the weather breaking, and enough time to recover for spring. So we ordered a baby for March delivery, 1949 model.

Until last September we were much too busy to think about the problem. We didn't even get in to see the doctor. The first time it was brought to our attention rather forcibly was when an airplane flew out from Lethbridge and we greeted Lloyd Knight of the Lethbridge Herald. He had been sent out by Maclean's Magazine to take pictures for the "Happy Landing at Squaw Butte" story. Eleanor by then resented any idea of a camera being pointed her way

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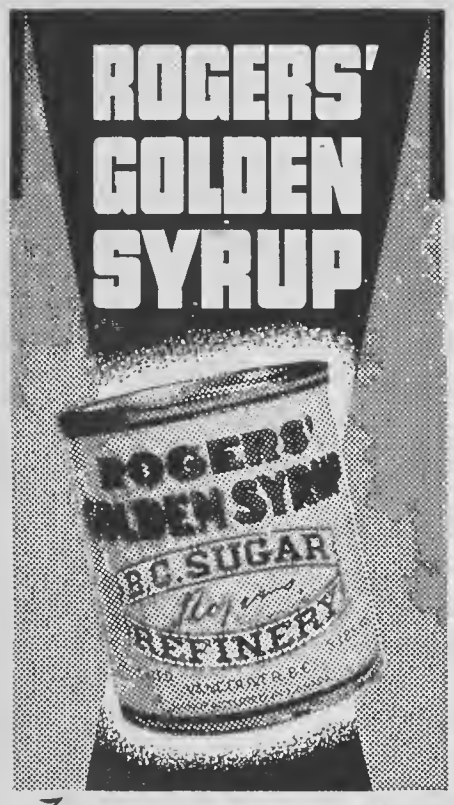


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THE weeks raced along in pleasant weather and healthy activity. After the first snow we fitted two sets of chains on the jeep and filled up with anti-freeze, hauled out a 45-gallon drum of gasoline. Our main worry was the lack of a road from the ranch buildings to the "Snake Trail" leading to Cowley which is on the main highway. The old bridge crossing the coulee a mile below the house had been taken down before we bought the place and our councillor was trying to get equipment out to put in a culvert and fill. Temporarily we were driving through a field that had been ploughed and worked to give us feed. The long stubble was sure to hold the snow. The neighbors telephoned one day to say the graders were working this way and we became quite excited when they repaired the road to our gate. But the "cat" was somewhere else, broken down. The culvert was used on another job and then the weather closed in with a vengeance. We realized there was no use hoping for a miracle, the coulee would not be bridged during 1948. We were now on our own in planning an avenue of escape.

After each heavy fall of snow I would rush through chores, warm up the jeep, and with shovels aboard break another trail out through the stubble. Angus, our closest neighbor a mile and a half below, would join me in the trail breaking and we began to find out just what the jeep could do under adverse conditions. At this stage we were quite confident the little vehicle would see us through unless the weather worsened. But just in case, we talked about relays of teams for a dash by sleigh to cover the 12 miles to Cowley. I brought a team in off the range and began hardening them. Bourdiers and Lapointes, farther down the trail, offered to stand by with fresh horses.

My sister was getting ready in Ottawa to come out here in March to look after Timmy and Dane. She planned to stay long enough to help Eleanor over the first few weeks back at the ranch. Excitement mounted as January blew itself out. The snow deepened in the hills and the drifts increased. The party line telephone was busy after every storm. Neighbors, riding out to look at their cattle, would check bad drift points. A few days after every blow someone would dash to Cowley for mail or supplies by sleigh from higher up, by car or truck from lower down. We would receive reports on road conditions.

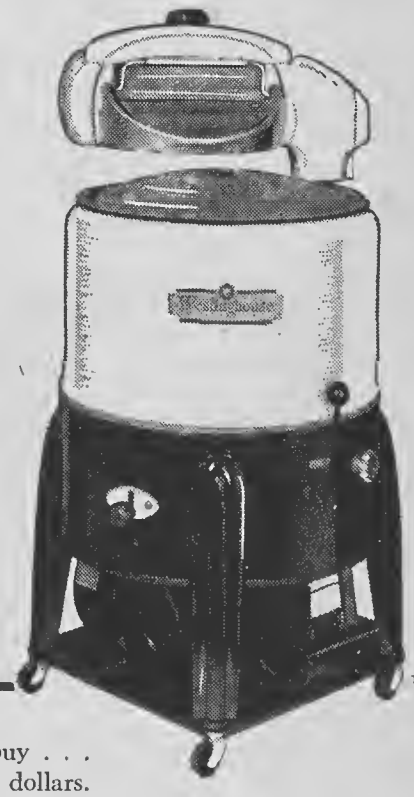
On January 17, after winds reported up to 80 m.p.h. had messed up the drifts that had been nicely dug out, Angus and I bucked the trail with the jeep and shovelled the spots we could not detour until we came to a little wooden bridge by Art Wright's place. Arthur couldn't resist the challenge of trying to get to town so he jumped in with us and knowing every inch of the country from this half-way point to Cowley, guided us through with only one long stop. We made it downhill in three hours and returned home in two. Then followed a couple of weeks when the temperature varied between —34 degrees and 20 above, more snow and more drifting.

On January 31, I managed to drive to Angus' place where he and George Mowat persuaded me to take team and sleigh with them. It was a cold



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trip but took the horses little more than two hours. At the beginning we joked about the diggable drifts along the way but farther down the sight was depressing. The trail was plugged solid on the straight stretches, covering fence posts and reaching into the fields where there was a chance of a detour. The snow was hard, but not hard enough to carry a jeep on top, and the wind had formed wave-like crests and hollows that tipped the sleigh over on one occasion. We had to find an alternative way out quick.

We began to make up routes. There was only one outlet, through the stubble field, but to get into the field we had to by-pass the dam and the trail winding below the dam would fill up with snow after every wind. East, west and north there are steep hills which blow clear on the west slopes and lie deep under drifted snow through the winter on the east slopes. By ruling out the trail to Cowley and concentrating on a straight run to Pincher Creek, 21 miles away, one is faced with the same problems; how to cross the coulees and how to get out of our alpine bowl and around the worst drifts in order to find a coulee crossing. The greatest obstacle is Tennessee Coulee. One road crosses it linking up the road to Cowley and the parallel north-south road that leads to Pincher Creek. We had to try and get a way out on this road.

IT doesn't take long for the neighbors to rally in an emergency. That spirit seems to be the very essence of life in the hills. On February 3 Louis and family arrived by sleigh. While the children played and the women gossiped we set out with the jeep. We spent hours digging drifts and had some breathless moments when we rode over the top of deep spots on hard-crusted snow. By the time we were ready to eat old boots well stewed we reached Tennessee. It was plugged solid on the east slope and we estimated it would take at least a day, possibly two, the way we were feeling, to dig it out. Louis suggested turning north if I thought the jeep could climb through untracked snow and we could follow the ridges higher up the coulee. By trial and error we broke a trail to Buck Baldwin's corrals. Buck had watched our progress and had managed to get in a team to come to our aid by the time we reached his camp. We found a way across the coulee by his buildings where the cattle had packed the snow, and after checking the latest report on the road returned home at 4.30 in the afternoon to demolish a good roast.

February 4 we had light snow and cold. This was to be the last visit to the doctor before the event. We were all up before daylight, doing chores. Louis rode up to Angus' place and George Mowat came over the hills by team. We left Dane and Timmy with Angus and with the extra men for emergency, ran to town on the trail we had opened the previous day. The news was good. Eleanor was fit but the doctor thought she should come in by the 14th to remain in town. Eleanor dashed off a letter to Betty who was ready in Ottawa. We thought we had the situation licked.

The next few days Eleanor worked very hard getting the room ready for Betty and trying to have the house on the top line. By the 7th we had more light snow and the temperature dropped to twenty below. I removed the battery from the jeep and placed it behind the stove in the kitchen to keep it alive. We listened to every weather forecast on the radio. On the 8th I took the team and sleigh to see Angus and it began to dawn on me that the by-pass around the dam as well as the stubble field were just about impassible. But we could hope to pull the jeep through there with the horses. I kept the news from Eleanor.

Each day I had grown more apprehensive and hesitant to call on the neighbors for further assistance. The morning of the 9th, with five days to go, I remembered how Louis had figured to cross Tennessee Coulee by going north, and taking saddle horse I rode over our steepest hill east to look at the country from the top of the ridge. It falls away sharply to farm land a few miles away and undulates gently to the valley where lies Pincher Creek. Thinking there might be a chance of climbing up to this ridge, I tested the cattle trail leading down the other side. This leads to our east boundary fence and into the Neufeld ranch where the graded road starts. It is also the beginning of Tennessee Coulee. The horse began to sink until I began to wonder if I was looking at the top of bushes or trees. When the horse was shoulder deep and beginning to struggle, I pulled him out. No way around either at that point and a couple of hundred yards long. But if I could dig it out in a day the rest might be possible. We picked a way down and across the fields to the Neufeld buildings. Henry said they were keeping the road open and a jeep could get through with four chains. He offered his jeep if we had to get over there by sleigh and I said we would have to figure it out by the 14th, five days away. Riding back, I checked the big drift again and decided it was worth a try at digging it out.

THE weather was bright and warm on the 10th. No word from Betty yet. As the telephone line was out of order from the strong winds, we hoped that there was a telegram waiting in Cowley. Little did we realize at this time that before we were through having our Porcupine Hill baby everyone would be in the act and that it takes teamwork of a high order to face such an emergency.

That morning I kept the calves in the corral and after watering and feeding went up to the house. I told Eleanor I was riding over the hill to dig out the drift, that it would only take a few hours. I didn't tell her that on the flat and climbing up the hill on the west slope there were 12 to 14 inches of loose snow. Eleanor suggested a cup of coffee first and while I was warming up in the kitchen she went to the bedroom to lie down. Piles of dirty clothing were sorted out all over the kitchen floor, tubs of hot water waited on the stove. This was to be the last big wash and then Eleanor was going to clean the house before sitting back to wait. Betty was to find everything in order. All I had to do before leaving was to drink the coffee, start the little engine for the washing machine and leave Eleanor to it. That's what I thought.

There was a plaintive call from the bedroom. Would I go in there and

(*Turn to page* 76)

A Visit To A Pottery

Where I found myself, a Canadian housewife, on a voyage of discovery, curious to know what goes into the making of beautiful china, to lay on our table

by **MARGARET ECKER FRANCIS**

STOKE-ON-TRENT — New fashions in china and pottery are something like the new fashions in this season's clothes, they hark back to the past. As women today lengthen their skirts and sigh after the crinoline, so on their tables, the men who make the world's finest china have found out, they yearn for delicate ware, gaily patterned in old-fashioned garden flowers.

In England's ugly, smoke-blackened Staffordshire workshop I have just seen chunks of grey clay become exquisite figurines. I have followed other lumps of clay from the time they resemble kindergarten plasticine until they become gracious dinner services, fit for royal banqueting, with which every Canadian housewife dreams she will one day lay her table.

The junket of discovery led up and down stone stairs and corridors worn by over a century of potters' feet. In some processes modern machinery was used, but in many more the craftsmen used their strong, square hands just as their predecessors did in the eighteenth century.

Perhaps this is why the connoisseurs of china and pottery in 1949 tend to turn their backs on the surrealist potting of newer factories. They prefer the traditional designs of Spode, Wedgewood, Royal Doulton and the others, because the pieces themselves are symbols of the centuries of craftsmanship that have gone into their making.

Two jovial, friendly Englishmen, casual as Canadians, introduced me to the jumble of brick and stone buildings which is the now famous factory of John Maddocks and Sons, which their ancestors founded in 1830.

Their factory, even before Canada became a Dominion, exported china and earthenware to the tables of our pioneers. They were the first of the large companies to recognize in the rugged new country a market for fine dishes.

I went to visit them as a reporter, but as I explored their plant I found myself doing it as a housewife who wanted to know what went into the making of the dishes I own and hope to own. It's a tour every Canadian woman should make because it gives appreciation of the china with which we lay our tables.

The warehouse where we started was full of the dust from the bins of ball clay from Devon, china clay from Cornwall and chunks of stone. In big bins they were being mixed and ground into a grey pudding, too much like pablum for beauty. At the end of the process it emerged in plasticine-like long lumps which the men carried about on their shoulders.

ONE floor up, the process began to make a little more sense. Potters were flinging the lumps onto revolving wheels and molding them with their fingers into something like circles of grey pie pastry. These would become plates, and as they came from the ovens where they were dried on molds you began to believe it. Rough edges were taken off with sandpapering machines.

At other benches, workers were pouring what looked like potato soup into molds. When the molds were opened a few minutes later there were teapots and cream jugs—in shape, at least. These chalky looking objects were loaded into ovens for baking. They came out in what the workers call the biscuit stage, and that's what they look like, with the chalky appearance of clay pigeons.

By the time they have been dipped in a glass solution—the glaze—and baked again, you begin to see that perhaps in time they may find their way to your dinner table.

It seems even more possible when you move on and see men and women fitting traced patterns onto the cups and saucers and plates, in much the way you would use decca prints to put "Tea" on a cannister. Sometimes this is done before the glazing, sometimes afterwards. After the glazing, patterned or not, the dishes are baked for 21 hours.

In their journey towards beauty, the dishes move on conveyer belts. Near the top of the building men and women are painting them by hand. Some designs are printed on, and then an artist with a particularly steady hand outlines the designs and fills in the rich colors that will bring beauty to the dining room. Then there is more baking, and the finished dinner set emerges.

In the packing room we saw what had been lumps of clay being packed carefully as fine china for Canada and Canadian dining-room tables.

THE Maddocks' factory is here in Stoke-on-Trent, which is the corporation of the six pottery towns, Stoke-on-Trent, Hanley, Burslem, Longton, Tunstall and Fenton (the Five Cities of Arnold Bennett's sage). Nearby was the factory of Doulton and Company.

There, clay and stone were being made not only into the dinner sets that are the ambition of any housewife, but also into figurines, character jugs and vases, similar to those which Chinese artists created in the Sung dynasty.

The fashion trend in the dishes of Royal Doulton, a firm that has been making fine china and pottery since 1815, is towards simplicity. To many people, Doulton means plates banded in rich blue and embossed in gold, and they are still making many of these. In the workshops we saw men and women artists painting on the color, and men painting on the fine black designs, which after an acid bath emerge golden.

But the firm is also proud of its new, simple designs. On one set of white fluted dishes, a single gold, modern spray of flowers is painted in the centre, in the "Montrose" pattern. "Chelsea Rose," also fluted, has a simple flower spray in pastels, with a border design in warm grey, a color chosen to accent the gleam of silver on a dinner table.

(*Turn to page* 72)

To Make a Man Beam...



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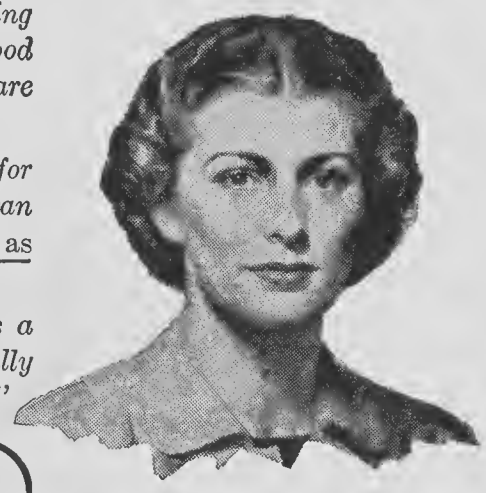
MAGIC MOCHA CHIFFON CAKE

2¼ cups sifted cake flour
3 tsps. Magic Baking Powder
1 tsp. salt
1½ cups fine granulated sugar
½ cup salad oil
5 unbeaten egg yolks
¾ cup cold strong coffee
1 tsp. vanilla
3 ounces chilled semi-sweet chocolate, thinly shaved
½ tsp. cream of tartar
1 cup egg whites

Sift flour, Magic Baking Powder, salt and sugar into mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre of flour mixture and add salad oil, egg yolks, coffee and vanilla; mix these liquids a little with mixing spoon, then combine with flour mixture and beat until smooth. Add chocolate and beat to combine (a potato peeler shaves chocolate thinly). Sprinkle cream of tartar over the egg whites and beat until very, very stiff (much stiffer than for a meringue). Gradually fold egg-yolk mixture into the egg-white mixture. Turn into ungreased 10" deep tube pan (top inside measure). Bake in rather slow oven, 325°, 1 ¼ to 1½ hours. Immediately cake is baked, invert pan and allow cake to hang, suspended, until cold. (To "hang" cake, rest tube of inverted pan on a funnel or rest rim of pan on 3 inverted small cups.) Remove cake carefully from pan and cover with a brown-sugar 7-minute frosting in which strong coffee is used in place of the usual water.

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—says Rita Martin



"You'll agree they're low in baking cost! And, made with Robin Hood Flour, these Quick Yeast Rolls are delightful in flavor.

"That's why — for taste, for economy, for quick baking — you can serve this family treat as often as you like.

"With today's high prices, it's a recipe you'd say was specially designed for this Fall and Winter."

ROBIN HOOD QUICK YEAST ROLLS

Here's all you need:

2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons shortening melted and cooled
1½ teaspoons salt
1 cake fresh compressed yeast or 1 package fast-rising dry yeast
1 cup lukewarm water
3¼ cups (about) sifted Robin Hood Flour

"More please" is the two-word description of these oven-fresh rolls. The secret — of this and hundreds of other baking successes?

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This will be your *new* favorite recipe with your *old* favorite flour — Robin Hood . . .

Here's all you do:

Add sugar, shortening, salt and crumbled yeast to lukewarm water.

Add 1 cup Robin Hood Flour and beat with a rotary beater until smooth.

Mix in remainder of Robin Hood Flour.

Place dough on lightly floured board, let rest about 5 minutes.

Knead well until smooth, then place in a greased bowl, cover, and let rise until light (about 1 hour).

Punch and form into rolls of desired shape.

Place on well-greased baking sheet or in muffin pans, cover with a damp cloth and let rise until light, about ½ hour.

Bake in hot oven, 425°F., 12 to 15 minutes.

Yield: 18 medium-size rolls.

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Vegetable Marrow

A favorite vegetable which can be served in many different ways

IF you are fortunate enough to have planted vegetable marrow this spring now is the time to reap the benefits of your labors. The season lasts from now until late in January so you have plenty of time to try some new recipes and to treat the family to something a little different. They are easily stored in a cool place and will provide excellent lunch and supper dishes this fall and winter. Marrow is good served plain or mashed; it is delicious stuffed with sage dressing, meat or a vegetable such as corn, when mashed with bacon or sausage, or used as a pie filling in place of pumpkin.

If a whole marrow is too large for your family serve it as baked marrow one day and later in the week in other dishes; or you may bake only half of it, using the other half for marrow pickles. These pickles are similar to those made with ripe cucumbers and are very good.

You can substitute a squash or even a pumpkin in these recipes with excellent results, or you can cut it into pieces, remove the seeds and string portions, season well and bake, then serve with lots of butter.

Baked Marrow

Wash and peel a marrow. Remove the seeds and loose pulp. Cut in thick slices. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and brown sugar. Dot with butter. Bake in a covered pan the first half hour and finish uncovered. It may take one and one-half to two hours.

Baked Stuffed Marrow

Wash, cut in half between the ends, peel each half and scoop out the seeds and loose pulp. Fill each half with any stuffing you desire then fit the halves together again fastening with string or skewers. Bake or simmer in a deep pot or baking dish. Serve by slicing through so each service is a complete circle.

If preferred you can lay the halves side by side and in this way brown the filling as well. Here are some filling ideas:

Sage Dressing

2 large onions
1 c. bread crumbs
Salt and pepper
2 T. melted butter
1 egg
2 tsp. sage

Parboil the onion and chop coarsely. Sprinkle the crumbs with milk and add to the onions. Then add butter, beaten egg and seasonings.

Corn Filling

1 T. butter
1 T. flour
1 c. milk
2 c. sweet corn
1 egg beaten till frothy
Salt and pepper

Make a white sauce of the butter, flour and milk; add the corn and beaten eggs. Sprinkle the marrow with salt and pepper and pour in the corn mixture.

Meat Filling

2 c. chopped meat, raw or cooked or
1 c. chopped meat and
1 c. diced cooked potatoes or vegetables
1 medium-sized onion
2 T. butter
Salt and pepper

Try sausage meat, hamburger, or cooked beef, lamb, ham, or chicken. Do not cover the filling while baking.

Fried Vegetable Marrow

Wash and pare a marrow then scoop out the insides. Cook in boiling water for about 15 minutes and drain. Slice in inch slices or cut in pieces of any desired size. Roll in flour, dip in beaten egg which has been diluted with water, roll in fine crumbs and fry in deep fat. Drain. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and serve hot.

Marrow and Tomato Casserole

1 medium-sized marrow
6 medium-sized tomatoes
2 small onions
3 T. butter
1 tsp. brown sugar
Salt and pepper

Peel, clean and cut into cubes. Peel tomatoes and chop coarsely; peel onions and mince. Mix and turn into a buttered baking dish. Season. Bake at 350° F. until soft and the juice almost cooked away (1½-2 hours). If you prefer this may be cooked over slow heat in a heavy saucepan with a tight-fitting lid. Add no water.

Mashed Vegetable Marrow

Break the washed marrow in large pieces. Remove the seeds and stringy portion. Bake in a slow to medium oven about 1½ hours. Scoop the marrow out of the shell and mash. If you have a potato ricer use it. Season with salt, pepper and plenty of butter. Steaming for 30 minutes may substitute for the baking if preferred.

Vegetable Pumpkin

3½ c. pumpkin
2 T. butter
¾ tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper

Drain the pumpkin in a sieve for about 15 minutes. Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the pumpkin, salt and pepper. Mix and heat thoroughly. Serves six.

Vegetable Marrow Pickle

2½ qts. cut vegetable marrow
1½ c. chopped onions
3 T. salt
½ c. sugar
1 tsp. tumeric
¼ c. dry mustard
2 c. vinegar
¼ c. flour

Slice, peel and remove stringy part and seeds from the marrow. Cut into ¾-inch cubes. Peel and chop onions and add to the marrow, sprinkle with salt, let stand one hour; drain thoroughly. Mix tumeric and mustard with one cup of vinegar, add drained vegetables and cook slowly 15 minutes. Combine flour and sugar with remaining cup of vinegar. Drain vegetables, combining drained liquid with flour and sugar paste. Heat this sauce slowly to boiling point and cook, stirring constantly, 10 minutes. Add vegetables and reheat to boiling point. Pack in hot, sterilized jars, cool and seal. Yields 3 pints.

Canned Marrow or Squash

Wash the marrow or squash; cut into halves; remove the seeds and attached pulp; cut into sections and peel. Cut into 1-inch cubes. Heat to boiling in a covered kettle with sufficient water to prevent burning till the vegetable is tender. Put through a potato ricer or mash and continue cooking, uncovered, over low heat with careful watching and occasional stirring until it is very thick. Pack loosely into half-pint jars; add 1 tsp. salt to each. Process for 3 hours in boiling water or 65 minutes in the pressure canner.

Mock Pumpkin Pie

¾ c. marrow or squash (cooked or canned)
½ to 2/3 c. light brown sugar
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. ginger
1/8 tsp. cloves
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 egg
¾ c. milk
½ cup medium cream

Mix the sugar, salt and spices and stir in the mashed squash or marrow. (If it is moist, cook it over a low heat to evaporate the moisture before measuring.) Stir in the unbeaten egg and mix thoroughly. Stir in the milk and cream thoroughly. Pour into an unbaked pie shell, filling to the top edge of the plate. Set the plate low down in a hot oven (425° F.), bake for 20 minutes. Remove to a shelf in the centre of the oven; reduce the heat to 325° F. Bake until the mixture will not adhere to the point of a knife inserted in the centre or about 25 minutes longer.



Honey chocolate cake is an extra special treat for the family.

Bake With Honey

Favorite ways in which to use this nutritious food

by LILLIAN VIGRASS

HONEY has a definite place in baking. It imparts a delightfully distinguished flavor and a creamy texture to bread, cakes and cookies. They will keep moist longer if honey is used in the making and usually the flavor improves with a reasonable storage period. Honey is almost twice as sweet as sugar so the price spread is not great; and with the new decrease in the honey price the difference is even less.

Honey is a natural sweet containing some moisture, easily digested sugars and a small amount of some of the minerals required by the body. Keep it covered, in a cool, dry place as it absorbs moisture from the air, as well as loses aroma and flavor rapidly. Color differences are due to the type of flowers from which the honey is made and in no way affects the food value. The flavor varies with the color, the lighter color generally having a more delicate flavor. When you use a darker type don't use too much.

Measure honey in its liquid form and for every cup of honey used in place of sugar, reduce the liquid by one-fifth of a cup. Add one-quarter teaspoon of soda and one-eighth teaspoon more salt also. In the case of puddings and pie fillings, so as not to thin the mixture, add the honey with the thickening; not after. In most cakes and cookies use half honey and half sugar for an intangible honey flavor. Be careful not to have your oven too hot while baking as honey burns at a lower temperature.

Honey blends well with spices, fruits and nuts. Oatmeal cookies remain fresh and crisp for many weeks when made with honey. If you want to mask the flavor of an extra strong honey use it in a chocolate cake. The result is a lovely, moist cake with no change in flavor.

Of all the foods made with honey, I like honey lemon pie the best. Almost as good is honey lemon cake. Then there are peaches canned with honey or part honey; they are delicious. Another favorite is honey pumpkin pie.

Honey Chocolate Cake

½ *c. butter*
½ *c. honey*
2 *squares unsweetened chocolate*
2½ *c. cake flour*
½ *tsp. soda*
2 *tsp. baking powder*
1 *tsp. vanilla*
½ *c. brown sugar*
1 *egg*
1 *c. milk*
½ *tsp. salt*

Cream butter well with honey and sugar, add egg and beat well; then add melted chocolate. Add sifted dry ingredients and milk alternately. Bake in a moderate oven 350° F.

Honey Lemon Pie

1 *lemon, juice and rind*
4 *to 5 T. cornstarch*
½ *c. cold water*
1 *c. boiling water*
¾ *c. honey*
¼ *tsp. salt*
2 *eggs*
1 *T. butter*

Mix cornstarch and salt with cold water, add honey; stir well. Add boiling water and cook in a double boiler until the taste of raw starch has disappeared. Remove and add lemon juice and rind, add part of the cooked mixture to the egg yolks and then combine them both. Return to the double boiler 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from the fire and add the butter. Place in a baked pie shell. Cover with meringue made by adding slowly ½ c. fine sugar to 2 stiff egg whites. Cook in a slow oven 250 to 275° F. until golden brown.

Honey Lemon Cake

½ *c. honey*
½ *c. butter*
½ *c. sugar*
½ *c. milk*
2 *eggs*
2 *c. flour*
2 *tsp. baking powder*
1 *tsp. cinnamon*
Grated rind of one lemon
¼ *tsp. salt*

Cream the butter, add the sugar and cream well together. Add the honey and then the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the lemon rind and then the sifted dry ingredients alternately with the milk. Bake in a moderate oven 300 to 325° F. for 30 to 40 minutes.

Honey Oatmeal Cookies

½ *c. butter*
½ *c. honey*
1 *egg*
1¼ *c. flour*
1 *c. fine oatmeal*
½ *tsp. salt*
½ *tsp. almond flavoring*
1/3 *tsp. soda*

Cream honey, butter and egg well. Add sifted dry ingredients and flavoring. Chill, roll and cut with a cookie cutter. Bake in a hot oven for seven or eight minutes until a delicate brown. As soon as cookies are cold spread with date fill-

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ing and put together. The filling is made by simmering slowly, until tender and smooth enough to spread readily, one cup of dates with one-half cup of water.

Honey Orange Custard

Juice and grated rind of one orange.

2 *eggs*	1 *c. milk*
3 *tsp. flour*	2 *T. water*
4 *T. honey*	¼ *tsp. salt*

Beat egg yolks, add grated orange rind. Make a smooth paste of the flour and water, add honey. Combine with egg yolks mixture and fold in the stiffly beaten whites. Oven poach for 45 minutes at 275 to 300° F.

Honey Pumpkin Pie

1½ *c. steamed pumpkin*	½ *tsp. salt*
1 *c. honey*	3 *eggs*
1 *tsp. cinnamon*	1 *c. milk*
½ *tsp. ginger*	½ *c. cream*

Mix ingredients in order given and bake in one crust.

Honey Nut and Date Bread

1½ *c. chopped dates*	1 *egg*
1 *c. boiling water*	¾ *c. honey*
1 *tsp. soda*	2 *T. brown sugar*
½ *c. walnuts*	3 *c. flour*
3 *tsp. butter*	2 *tsp. baking powder*
½ *tsp. salt*	

Place dates in saucepan with soda and boiling water, cook for five minutes. Cool. Cream butter thoroughly, add the honey, sugar and egg. Then add cooled date mixture and nuts. Stir in sifted dry ingredients. Bake in a loaf tin about 50 minutes in a slow oven.

* * *

Granulated honey can be brought back to its liquid form by standing the container in water and heating it to 150° F. A higher temperature is likely to darken the honey and drive off the flavor and aroma.

Visit To A Pottery

Continued from page 69

Did you ever wonder how Doultons make their gay flower sellers, with their piquant faces and baskets of flowers, each one perfect?

These figures are molded in between ten and twenty pieces, bodies, hands, feet, baskets cast separately in plaster of Paris molds. The "slip," a mixture of bone ash and several special kinds of clay, is poured into the molds and left to dry. The pieces emerge white and chalky, a gruesome collection.

Like someone working on a puzzle, a skilled worker "sticks" the pieces together. A tremble of the hand would ruin the whole figure. Each flower is made by hand and fitted into its basket.

The assembled figure is again baked at a temperature which would melt most metals, and emerges as "biscuit china" with a matt-like surface. Then it is dipped in glaze and baked again, and the glaze becomes a thin coating of glass.

NEXT the glowing colors of the clothes, the gold of the hair, the delicate, flesh-like tints of the skin are painted on with ceramic colors evolved for the most part from metals. Gold, for one, is the base of the rich maroon, red and pink ones. Girls paint the clothing of the lovely china ladies, the rakish old men, the cherubic children. Each color is fired separately in the oven. But only the hands of the men artists are steady enough to give the faces their lifelike tints.

Perhaps, like myself, you have sometimes resented the fabulous prices of these figures. I don't now, after seeing the skill, the years of training and research that have gone into making these creations of art.

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TREM TRED YOUR FLOORS

Scalp Health for Hair Beauty

Points on brushing, shampoos, and rinses to bring out the highlights

by LORETTA MILLER



Upswept hairdo worn by Joan Greenwood, lovely English star.

HOW does your hair rate in your beauty picture? The beauty of the hair depends upon the health of the scalp, and the attention given to both hair and scalp determine the way they both look and feel. No matter how healthy the scalp might be, it cannot remain in condition unless it is kept clean. And although cleanliness is, in a measure, responsible for the health of the hair, this important step to hair beauty is often overlooked.

It is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rules as to how often the hair should be shampooed. This depends entirely upon the individual.

About the best way to tell whether or not it is time to shampoo is to examine scalp and hair. If they both shine, if the hair has lustre, you may put off the shampoo for a few days. Keep a close check on scalp and hair and shampoo as soon as required. Nothing detracts from a neat appearance as readily as soiled hair.

Consider the daily care of your hair. First, it must be brushed every day if it is to sparkle. Use a clean brush and touch the scalp lightly at the start of each stroke. This light touch to the scalp aids in stimulating circulation which, in turn, normalizes the action of the oil ducts. When these important ducts function normally the scalp remains healthy and the hair is more obedient and looks lovelier.

Some of the soil can be removed by daily brushing. Cover the brush with a layer or two of cheesecloth and brush downward, from the scalp to the ends. The soil and excess oil will be picked up on the gauze and it will be necessary to replace the gauze often during the brushing process.

THERE are a few commercial powders available for dry cleaning the hair and full directions accompany each. These are generally sprinkled through the hair and over the scalp, then removed by thorough brushing. Regular corn meal has been used successfully, though it is only fair to caution brunettes that it is not easy to remove and requires a lot of elbow grease. In fact, most powder cleansers require a lot more brushing than the average girl is willing to apply. Dry cleaning with any powder is purely an emergency measure to be used when it is impossible to use water on the head.

Shampooing the hair is a beauty rite which must be done thoroughly if the hair is to have lustre. There is no half-cleaning the hair. A thorough lathering, distributed through every area of the scalp and over every hair should be followed by enough rinsings to remove every trace of soil.

When it is difficult to rinse the hair with running water, and you want to make certain that all soap is removed, use a vinegar rinse. Add one-fourth cup of pure vinegar to three-fourths cup of lukewarm water. Rinse the hair first with clear water in order to remove the heaviest deposit of lather. Then, beginning at the scalp, pour the vinegar rinse down over the full length of hair. Then using a large pitcher or pan, and again beginning at the scalp, you pour warm water over scalp and hair. By starting the pouring at the scalp, the soap curds are literally swept away, and can be seen running off the hair. The slight trace of vinegar odor left on the hair will vanish in a short time.

What girl hasn't wished for more highlights, regardless of the shade of her hair? Whether one's hair is brown, blonde, brunette, titian, red, grey or silver, or any of the in-between shades, there is a special rinse which will give the hair lustre and bring out its full loveliness.

The girl with brown, titian, dull red, or chestnut hair who wants to add reddish lights to her hair can use either a henna rinse or one of the prepared rinses found in local drug and department stores. The henna rinse is made by steeping a handful of henna leaves in a quart or so of boiling water. The steeping should continue until the henna tea is moderately warm, then strained through a layer of cheesecloth. The henna tea may be used as a final rinse. If the hair appears too red, a rinse of clear water should be used.

BLONDE hair has either gold or silver highlights. The gold is emphasized by using the henna rinse just described. The silver sparkle is brought out by using either a drab or platinum rinse. Directions for using the prepared rinses which are available in drug and department stores come with each package.

Hair that has been artificially lightened should be given a drab or platinum rinse if it is to appear naturally blonde. The harsh, brassy, metallic look of bleached hair is too obvious to be lovely. But when toned down it is lovelier and far more flattering.

The platinum rinse suggested for toning down bleached hair is especially nice to use on grey or silver hair streaked with yellow. The "tarnish" on white hair is generally caused by the chemistry of the body and not easy to prevent. The bluing rinse, however, is an effective solution.

Use either the platinum or a bluing rinse for making silvery hair more silvery, for toning down the yellow and for adding a rich sparkle to this lovely shade of hair. Bluing for the hair, as well as all rinses referred to, are available in local shops.

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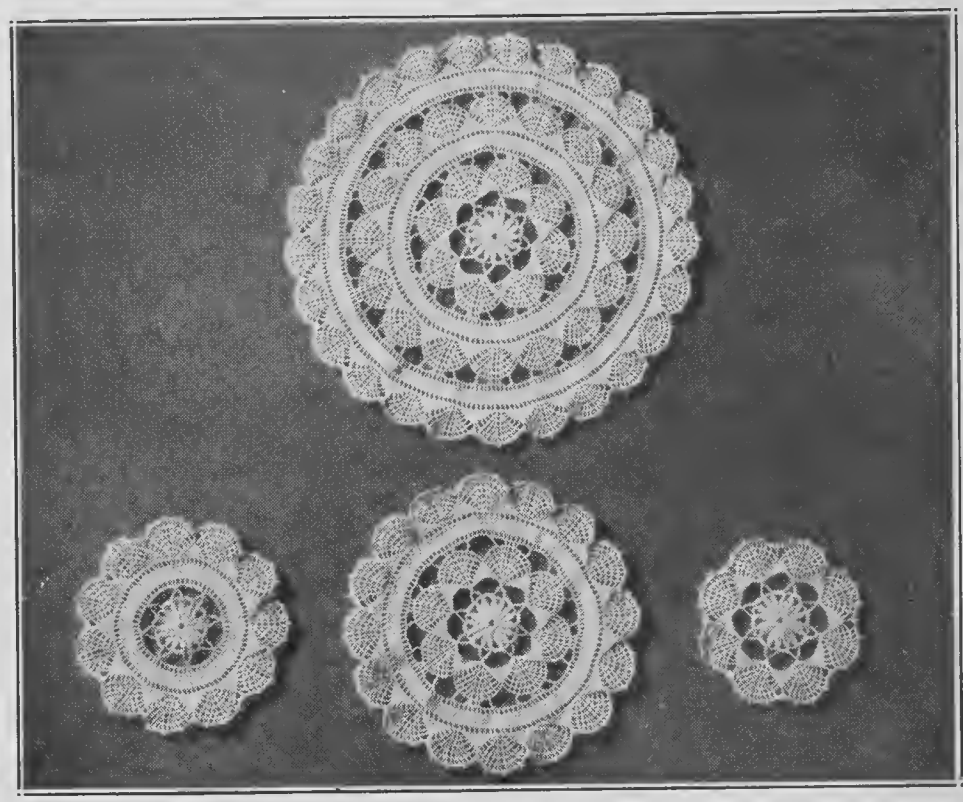


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Design No. 725.

Wash-Day Aftermath

Many women say "I don't mind the washing. It's the clean-up that gets me down." Here are some better methods for reducing that chore

by MARGARET M. SPEECHLY

WHEN the last load is pinned to the line, you still have to cope with the clean-up. For you, as for many others, this may be the low spot of the week because you are tired and the dinner must soon be on the table. Anything that will lessen toil and fatigue at this point is worth considering.

Presumably you got rid of the wash water while you were at the lines by using a long hose attached to the tap of the washer. It may take 50 or 60 feet of hose-pipe to transfer the water far away from the house, but it is well worth the investment. Naturally you don't want to leave the door open to let in the flies. My husband got over this by boring a hole through the frame of the screen the right diameter to allow the hose to be pushed through. When it is removed, a disc of tin falls over the hole.

Another hose shorter in length can be used as a siphon for emptying the tubs into the washer. The amount of lifting and fatigue saved through using hoses will amaze you, and it all mounts up week after week. Indirectly this makes the clean-up easier by reducing spills and splashes that often occur when emptying water by the pail.

You won't dread the aftermath so much if you have a handy place for storing laundry equipment. Hanging tubs and stand in a nearby porch or shed takes less effort than carrying them to the basement especially if the stairway is steep or shaky.

If you can push the washer into a corner of the kitchen or into another room on the same level, you will save time and strength. To move it outside, down steps, takes a tremendous amount of effort and it is not good for a power machine either.

Are you doing the washing where it will be the least in the way? The old plan of using the porch, summer kitchen or veranda has merits. It keeps the kitchen clean and free from clutter, and you can serve dinner in comparative calm.

Against these benefits, balance the disadvantages. A wash-house may be farther from the water supply, and the stove may be temperamental. Such a building is often poorly lit, and the floor rough or uneven. Unless it is screened there will be flies and mosquitoes. In winter, the cold will drive you back to the house anyway, and even if you work outside until late fall, the extra clothes you must wear will add to your fatigue.

ALL winter you will be faced with cleaning up the kitchen or utility room, so it will pay you to try every scheme for reducing the toil. The floor will stay cleaner if the pieces of equipment are placed so that the work proceeds smoothly from one step to another. By reducing the traffic, there will be fewer footprints and less chance of spills.

Carrying water in or out of the house is responsible for a lot of mess. Dad may be the soul of carefulness, but the boys will have to learn that brimming pails invariably go overboard. If you heat water on top of the stove, insist on it being poured carefully into the boiler. Few things are more discouraging than a badly splashed range.

Dipping hot water out of the boiler is not only heavy work but it can make a mess when sloppily done. You can skip this by having a threaded tap soldered to the bottom of the boiler. Screw on a hose with a threaded attachment and it is no trick at all to transfer the hot water to the tubs or machine.

You use a plunger for rinsing the clothes of course. As you remove it let the water drain, and then set the plunger in an enamel wash-bowl or other utensil that will catch the drips.

Keep working and planning for a water system because it does away with so much of the mess associated with wash-day. Don't let the men folk think it will benefit you only. They will skip the chore of hauling water, snow or ice into the house and out again.

Unfortunately, a perfect mechanical arrangement does not guarantee a spotless kitchen at the end of Monday morning. You have probably noticed that even in your own family there is a great difference in the way individuals do the same job. Some are careful and deliberate, and get things done with little or no mess. Others are jerky and hurry too much, or collide with equipment or people.

EVEN a careful person has accidents when over-tired, worried, or discouraged, or when her mind is preoccupied with other matters. Insufficient breakfast, eaten in a rush, can lead to nervous fatigue that finally results in accidents.

Inadequate lighting and ventilation are also to blame for many wash-day accidents, or without realizing it, poor vision may cause you to misjudge distances. A new pair of glasses might do wonders for you, even though it takes a while to get used to bi-focal lenses. Until you become accustomed to a new pair, be extra careful to avoid tripping or slipping on wash-day.

The floor will be less of a problem if you wipe up spots of water immediately. Not only does this reduce the number of footmarks but it removes the danger of slipping which may mean accidents or a flood of water. Wiping the floor is much less tiring if you do not need to bend, so keep at hand a mop and a pail with a wringing device. This team is also useful for cleaning up the floor quickly after the washer is put away.

It suits many women to give the floors a thorough "doing" after the laundry is completed. This gets the job out of the way and leaves the rest of the week free for other things. Whether it is a good idea in your case depends on how many demands there are on your strength and time. If this extra work leaves you exhausted and irritable, then it will pay you to leave every last corner and the waxing until another day.

Possibly the reason you hate the thought of the aftermath of wash-day is that you are too ambitious and attempt too much. Think it through carefully to see how you can be a bit easier on yourself.





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Porcupine Papoose

Continued from page 68

leave the children in the kitchen! One minute I was young, determined and healthy. In the next ten minutes I was aging far too quickly. Eleanor whispered in dismay that it was too late to get out, and what were we going to do? I thought about jeeps and hills; snow and more snow; minutes, hours, teams and cold sleighs; the long miles between us and safety; the awful penalty of a wrong decision.

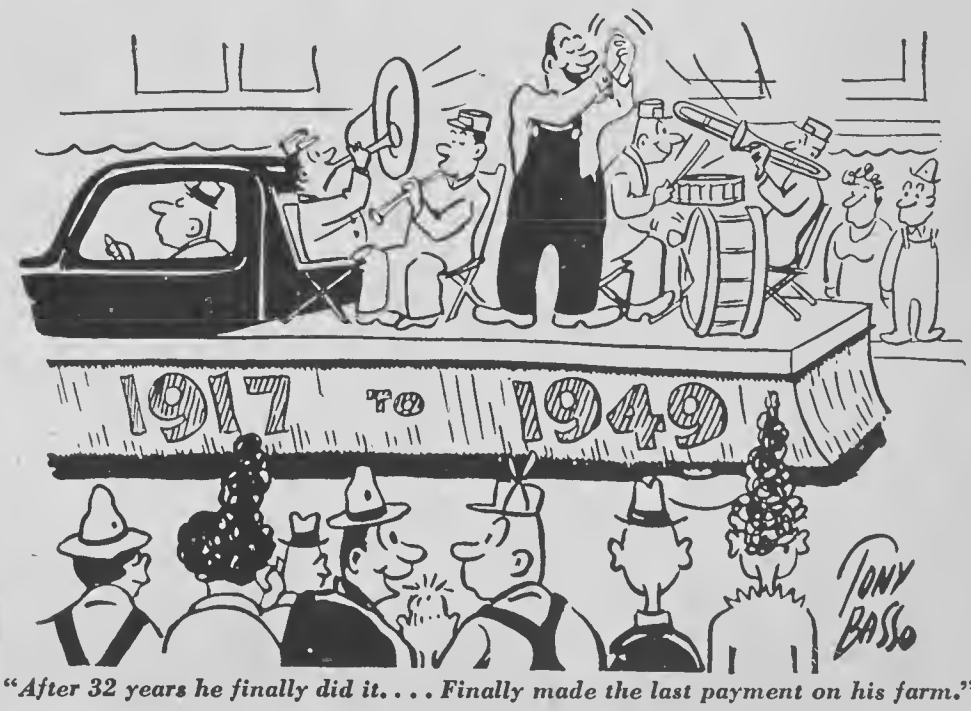
I tried to rush from one room to another, over and around piles of dirty clothing and little people always in the way, talking about the chance of getting somewhere in a couple of hours. Eleanor insisted it was too late; if the telephone was working between here and town perhaps I could get hold of a woman. I made three local calls but it seemed that everyone was out. I spoke to one woman but her man had gone to town with the team.

That did it. I turned back to Eleanor and said we would just have to get over the hill to Neufeld's where there were three men and a housekeeper. I could make it in 40 minutes. She would have a woman with her and a fighting chance of getting the doctor to come out. "But what if we get stuck in the drift half way over?" I told her we wouldn't get stuck and hoped it sounded convincing. "How about the children?" I told her they would be better off over there. Then she dissolved in tears over the thought of Betty coming out to this confusion, with the laundry and house not ready after all our planning. But I wasn't thinking of these things. I was throwing clothes at Dane and Timmy, aged five and two, telling them to get into their snowsuits as best they could. I tried to help Eleanor get her things ready, rushed for the jeep, then remembered the battery behind the stove. Somehow I thought the time it would take to get team and sleigh would not compensate for an immediate start. If we did get stuck Henry could drive his jeep up to meet us and we would effect a transfer downhill. The battery went into place but the connections would not fit. In the panic of the moment I tied the loose one with binder twine, hammered the tight one on. She started. I backed out and put the kids in while the engine was warming up. Back in the house again I fetched things for Eleanor, got her suitcases out, tried to find a spare garment for Timmy. Both boys looked like tramps but this wasn't a social call. Eleanor still had misgivings about trying to leave but I managed to get her into the jeep. It wasn't a happy or carefree moment.

IN four-wheel drive and tractor gear we started out. It wasn't encouraging to find we could barely crawl over the flat, pushing the snow up over the radiator, with chains on all four wheels. For there was a big climb ahead. We couldn't get on the grass slopes to start the climb until we had backed and shovelled the deepest snow away. Once committed to the climb we had to give the little engine everything but we struggled to the top. I had been reasonably certain we would get there but now we had to make the decision that would mean success or failure. Should we try our luck and roll down the steepest part of the descent, hoping that we would remain on top of the deep drift?

If the vehicle broke through and high-centred we would be half-way, pinned down for many hours. Time was the factor so I decided against it, swung south on top of the ridge to keep going. Here the snow was not too deep and we picked our way through the evergreens, over hard little short drifts, around deadfall timber, over stumps and rocks, down a dip and up on to the ridge again. But we kept going. We worked south and east again until we were on an east-west ridge giving us a clear view south to our target from where we could also see the Neufeld buildings below us. There was only one place with light snow and no visible deep drift, a very steep vertical drop that in summer is marked by a single cattle trail worn down over the years. I had remembered asking why this worn track should be in such an impossible place for the brutes to climb and had been told that in the toughest winters it was the only way out of the pocket. I left the jeep and walked part way down, noticed the tops of wild hay in the snow, judging the slope for "sidling." If the vehicle could only track straight down without slewing we might make it. But if she changed direction anywhere during the descent we could roll over and over. I looked at this spot the other day from the bottom with the snow gone and it reminded me of the landing hill below the ski jumps at Banff and Rockcliffe Park, Ottawa.

I asked Eleanor if she was game to try, and said it would be all over in



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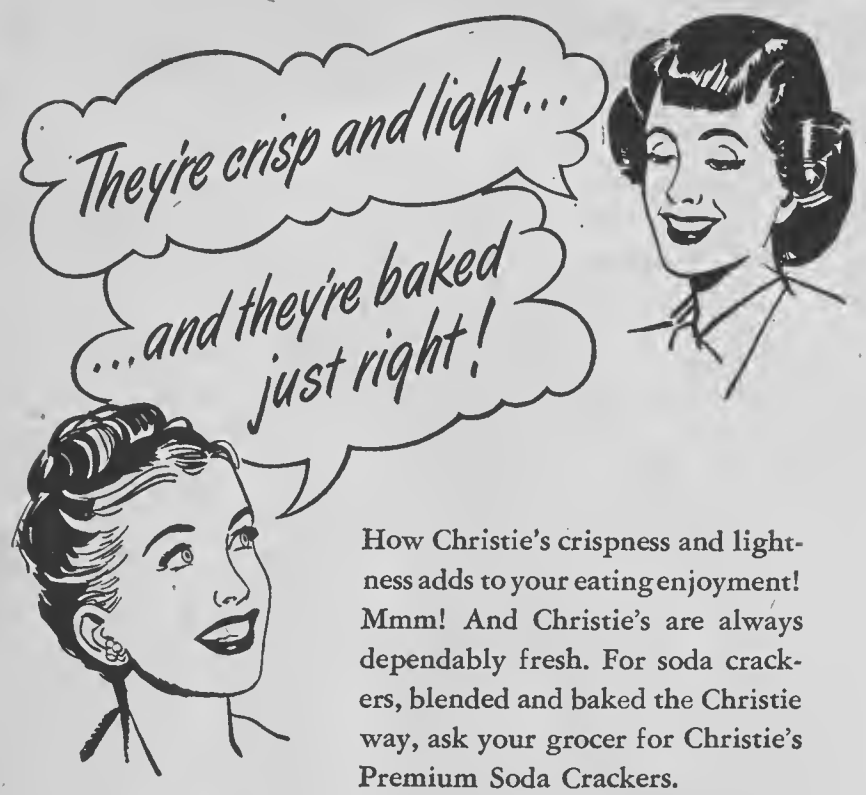
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a few minutes when she would be safe in the house. She said: "Let's go." I put the jeep in low gear, told the kids in the back to hang on, and we crept over the lip. When the little vchicle tipped forward the kids pitched off the seats and remained piled up against the back of the front seat, howling their heads off. We held our breath. I talked to myself on the way down, hardly daring to use brakes and handling the wheel as gingerly as possible. It reminds me of a South African friend's description of a crash in a Hampden bomber in 1941 when he wrapped it around a tree in the dark. He was talking to himself: "ONE (I'm still alive) . . . TWO (I'm still alive) . . . THREE (I'm still alive) . . .," etc.

We made the bottom after an eternity and stopped to get our breath back and right the kids. Then we broke out of the valley to Neufeld's and the open road. When I pulled up at the house Eleanor decided to remain where she was until I had telephoned the doctor. If the road report was still good she thought we might keep on going. Henry followed in his jeep and we made the dash in record time. It took two and a half hours from start to finish and it was a real family affair with Tippy, our collie, managing to stay with us to Pincher Station. At the hospital a very tired old man, who that morning had been young and reasonably gay, handed his wife over to the cool competence of the staff. The relief was temporary for I had two apprehensive kids on my hands and a ranch full of livestock back in the hills.

IT is funny the things a chap does between crises. I took the jeep to a garage for servicing. The mechanic was amused to find the battery in backward—it had discharged all the way to town. The kids got some candy and then we wandered into Mr. Graham's barber shop. It seemed to be something to do until the next problem was solved so Dane had a haircut and Timmy talked to lots of people.

Then the two little boys were left in the care of a very kind couple we had met only recently. They offered to look after them until Betty should arrive. Now where was Betty? I telephoned to Cowley and learned that she would be arriving Saturday. This was Thursday. After a few hours of sleep in town I drove back to the ranch to look after the animals. Taking the same route I tried the steep slope in the old tracks while the Neufeld hands watched from a sleigh in the valley floor, betting on my chances. I figured if I got stuck I could back down, but she climbed steadily, like an old elevator.

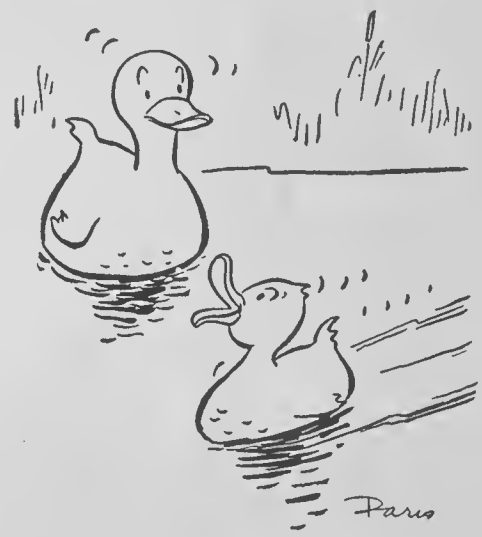
I had assured Eleanor that I would do the washing somehow, and put the finishing touches to the house. I had just finished eating the stew that had been made for yesterday's washday meal and was deciding where to start in the domestic wilderness when Angus rode up on his sorrel. We moved furniture around and I swept the floor. Angus decided what to do about the washing. He would come up with a sleigh and take it down to his good wife. We threw all the neat little piles into one awful looking mound in the shed at the back. I decided to wash the floor.

The telephone line began to work and I called Pincher Creek. Finally I located the doctor and learned that Eleanor had presented the ranch with another cowboy; that they were both fine. I began to telephone the neighbors, asking if they wanted another hand. All the work waiting to be done around the house suddenly became very unimportant and I made plans to break out of there once again. In our relief Angus and I shook hands for a good five minutes. Gus and his family were standing by and it didn't take long to arrange for son Marcel to come up here and take over. I seemed to arrive in town with no memory of the trip so it must have been made in a daze of thankfulness at the relief that all was well. Eleanor looked wonderful and the boy was a winner.

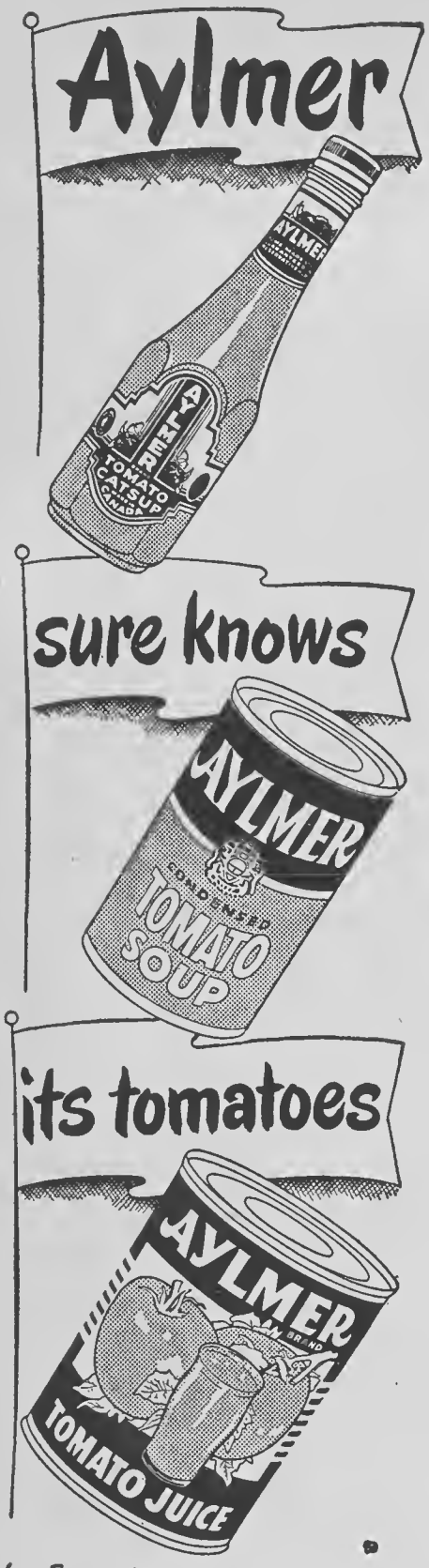
It seemed like our troubles were over. All I had to do was to meet Betty next day, take her out to the ranch with the two boys and relax while Eleanor had a good rest in hospital. It was a fitting climax and thinking back on our carefully laid plans with detailed arrangements, I thought of Burns' "The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft agley." Plan you might but you cannot force your will on weather and its effect on railway timetables.

I'll never know just how our wonderful telephone operator at Cowley kept in touch with events. When I arrived at Pincher Station to meet Betty on Saturday there she was on the telephone, speaking from Lethbridge. She was stranded because her train had arrived four hours late and missed the connection. I told her to take a ten o'clock train that would arrive at midnight. Before that time a first-class blizzard struck the country —the daddy of all the winter storms. We were not to get off so lightly. Her train was expected at 3.00 a.m. Sunday. I crawled out from Pincher Creek the two miles to the station with visibility nil, reaching from one telephone pole to the next and stopping to determine if I was still on the road. Mine was the last vehicle to make that trip before the storm blew itself out. From 3.30 a.m. on the station filled up with train crews looking like embattled warriors. The drifting snow, which quickly filled the jeep and hid it from view, was immobilizing the great engines. Crews kept trying to dig the trains out to get them started while the operator hugged the wires. Betty's train arrived at 7.30 a.m. after engines from Pincher Station had gone down to bring it up the grade around the Peigan Indian Reserve at Brocket. It had to be broken in two.

Mr. and Mrs. Bundy at the station had stayed up all night, keeping the wires open and serving coffee to the



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crews. Then they took Betty into the fold. To them it was a very natural thing to do and after a breakfast that raised our spirits they put me to bed. The blizzard persisted all Sunday with no slackening and it wasn't until Monday noon that snow plows were able to open the two miles to Pincher Creek. Betty went to join the children with the good samaritans. I set out to drive back to the ranch.

THERE was no sign of the emergency route we had taken. It kept luring me on as a challenge. From 1.30 p.m. I kept trying to find a way through the coulees and at one time got to about five miles from the Neufeld ranch before turning back to town. Driving out to Cowley I traded the jeep for a team and got home at midnight with relays of horses. On Wednesday I returned to Cowley by sleigh and picked up the jeep. A snow plow had been out on the road and we managed to get the children home, coming by Neufeld's. I wanted to settle down for a good, long stretch of peaceful routine but by Sunday Eleanor was clamoring to be home. Why on earth couldn't she leave the hospital and visit in town until the weather improved? All winter she had been talking about the rest she was going to have, the lazy life in town after. But here she was just aching to be back on the ranch, whatever the weather. So I had to do the trip again over the hill east. But three times lucky was enough! I wasn't going to tempt the fates again. We returned from Neufeld's in a sleigh; baby Ian, nine days old, having his first sleigh ride. The team couldn't pull the hill and in attempting to traverse the sleigh nearly upset. Eleanor voted to get out and climb to the top on foot, carrying the baby. She wanted to get home in the worst way, and she did. The driver and I hung on to the sleigh and made the top in low gear.

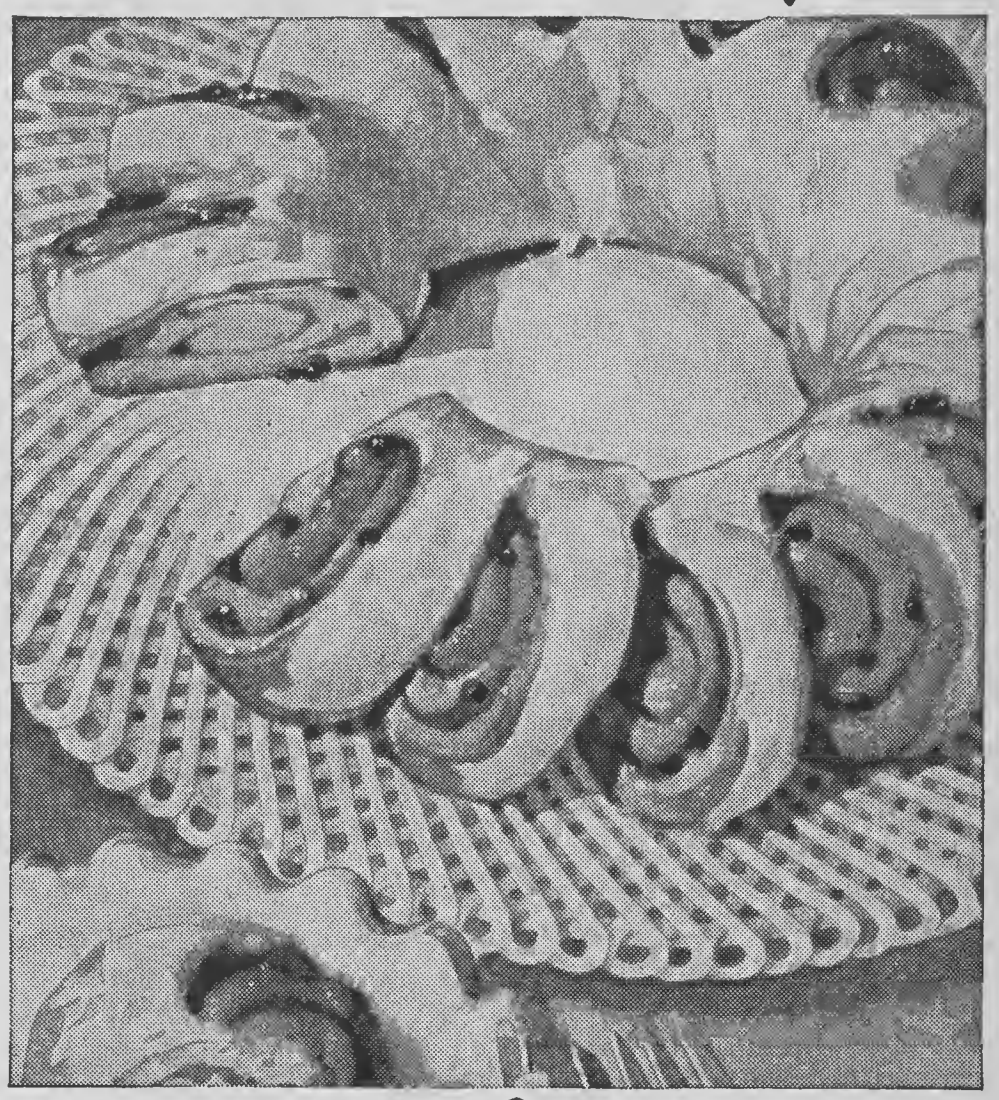
We are all getting our youth back and I must say a family of five is pretty nice. The blizzards and snow and blocked roads are only a memory—something to talk about in later years. Life in the hills can dish up a mess of winter weather that hits with the fury of pent-up vengeance. Then spring comes and strokes the land with a gentle touch of magic. Everything turns green, melting snow swells the little streams and the water gurgles down from the heights. You wake up to a new world of buds, the cawing of crows and the bright flash of bluebirds. And you forgive Nature for her pranks.

We are thankful to be back to normal again, but it's a busier normal. There is a little bundle of lovable, smiling, cooing humanity to share it with us. Dane and Timmy are fascinated.

And Eleanor? She's the same old gal, taking everything in her stride. During the winter she swore she wouldn't have time for a big garden this year or baby chicks but I didn't notice any difference when I sent off the seed order. I knew she wouldn't be able to waste a broody hen and would be tucking turkey eggs under them when they weren't looking.

Just the other evening she said the baby bonus cheque is going to help a lot—fifteen whole dollars to be spent at her discretion. "Why," she said, "just think what I could do with twenty."

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Measure into large bowl . . . **2/3 cup lukewarm water,**
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and stir until sugar is dissolved.
Sprinkle with contents of . . . **3 envelopes Fleischmann's Royal Fast Rising Dry Yeast.**
Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.
In the meantime, scald . . . **2/3 cup milk.**
Remove from heat and stir in . . . **½ cup granulated sugar,**
1¼ teaspoon salt,
6 tablespoons shortening.
Cool to lukewarm and add to yeast mixture.
Stir in . . . . **3 eggs, well beaten**
Stir in . . . **3 cups once-sifted bread flour** and beat until smooth.
Work in an additional . . . **3 cups once-sifted bread flour.** Turn out on lightly floured board and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl, brush top with melted butter or shortening. Cover and set dough in warm place, free from draught. Let rise until doubled in bulk. Punch down dough and divide into 2 equal portions; form into smooth balls. Roll each piece into a ¼-inch thick oblong. Cream until soft . . . **¼ cup butter,** and mix in . . .
1 cup brown sugar (lightly pressed down),
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon.
Spread this mixture on oblongs of dough and sprinkle with . . . **1 cup raisins or currants.**
Beginning at a long edge, roll each piece up like a jelly roll; place each roll on a greased large baking sheet and shape into a ring, sealing ends together. Grease tops. Cut 1-inch slices almost through to centre with scissors and turn each slice partly on its side. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Brush with 1 egg yolk beaten with 2 tablespoons milk. Bake in moderate oven, 350°, 25 to 30 minutes.
If desired, spread tops, while warm, with a plain icing. Serve hot, with butter.





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WINNIPEG - - - CANADA

The Mad Month

Continued from page 8

"Maybe you'd best save it for Ansell Gregg," Jesse said shortly, and shifting his rucksack he turned away.

"Jesse Ballard, what's come over you!" the girl cried after him. There were sparks now in her hazel eyes and she placed both hands on her hips. She had the pert small figure for that sort of thing.

JESSE stopped, then in a burst of anger he gave vent to his suspicions, ending with a harsh accusation. Overwhelmed by his scathing outburst, the girl stood gazing at him while her eyes narrowed and hardened. She said not a word and Jesse, accepting her silence for the direst guilt, turned fiercely about and strode up the ridge. He did not pause nor glance back, yet part of him was hoping momentarily that the girl might stop him with a perfect explanation of the situation that had driven him to jealous fury. But no explanation came, for Judy by now was quite as furious as he. She turned abruptly indoors banging the door shut behind her, while Jesse's long, angry stride took him on up the ridge. With every yard however, his purpose weakened. He longed to turn around for at least a final look at the cabin, but perversely the hard lines about his mouth tightened, and the sting of pride drove him on and out of sight.

Judy Mellott's temper was a momentary flare-up. As she stood in the window watching Jesse's tall figure move out of sight, pangs of repentance were already gripping her. A quick hope that he would come to his senses and return caught at her throat, but without abating his angry stride Jesse moved on and over the ridge.

When he disappeared the girl sank onto a chair sobbing in misery. She knew well enough what had happened. Someone must have told him that she had been to Ansell Gregg's cabin—Ansell Gregg, whom Jesse still disliked and feared as a possible rival and who lived altogether too close to the Mellott cabin for a discarded lover, as he had proclaimed more than once. But that Jesse had condemned her without even giving her a chance to explain—that was too much. She should have spoken anyway, she saw now. But pride and her own short temper had held her silent.

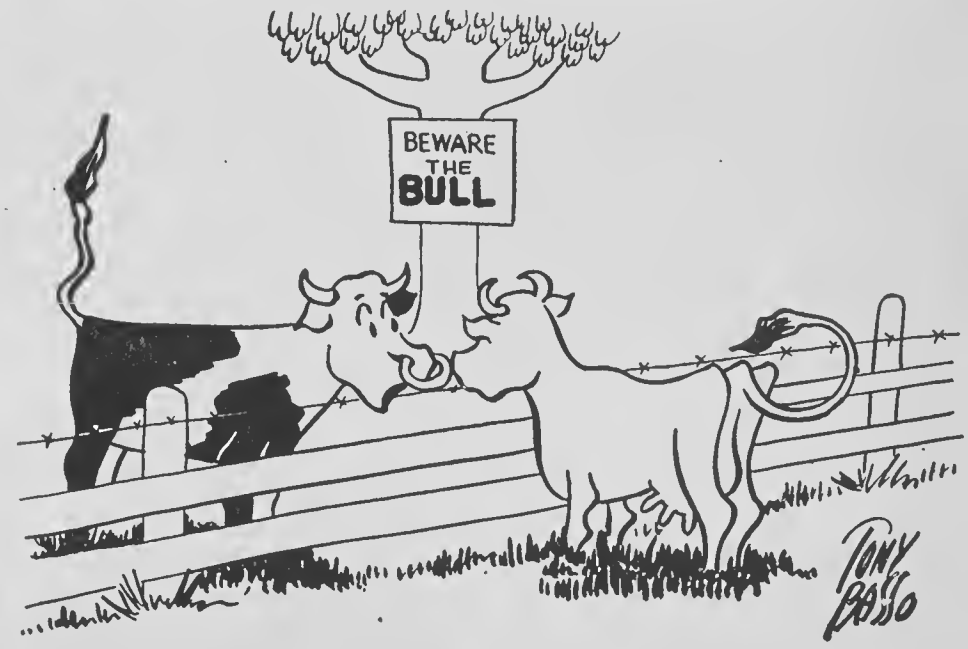
Quite probably Jesse had come home for the entire week-end. Thought of the wonderful time they might have had brought fresh tears. After a time Judy put on her tam and mackinaw and started out along the way Jesse had taken, vaguely hoping that he might have turned back or that she might overtake him. But Jesse had not slowed his furious pace for an instant and already he had put a good mile between him and the Mellott cabin.

After following on for a time Judy stopped, then turned angrily aside. She would have been eager enough to set things right by an explanation had she overtaken him, but she was not going to follow him home. No; Jesse would have to seek her out now before things could be straight between them again.

She turned northward toward the home of Angela Dupre, a close friend, whom she had promised to visit that day. For some twenty minutes the girl threaded the dusky shadows of the spruce, soundless in her felt-soled shoes, following a short-cut across country that would bring her out on the bank of the stream. Presently as she moved through a tangle of downlogs and windfalls, a sharp but undefinable warning impressed her senses. She turned to look sharply about, but she saw nothing, except that a pair of jays were scolding about something in a gnarled pine. Jays sometimes acted as alarm bells in the woods, she knew, though as often as not their outcry was the emptiest clamor.

SHE passed on, and again came the feeling that she was not alone, that hostile eyes were watching her. She searched the surrounding shadows, then her heart gave a sudden violent surge.

From the depths of a windfall she had just passed, the vast shaggy form of a bear had just risen on its hind feet to view her. Ordinarily a human has little to fear from a bear, but this one, a big male, had been badly wounded by a hunter's bullet two weeks before, and the rankling pain of the wound had kept him from feeding or resting and turned him into a savage red-eyed killer. This was the time he should have been feeding fat on the autumn crop of mast and berries against the coming hibernation sleep. Instead he had wandered miserably, growing gaunt and lean with pain, a leanness that would prohibit his holing up for the winter and condemn him to prowling sleeplessly till spring, existing on whatever he could find in the winter woods. Judy saw instantly the half-healed shoulder wound around which flies buzzed, the gleaming savage teeth, the murderous light in its little red-rimmed eyes. For



"Propaganda!"

the space of a few heart-beats the animal paused under the impact of her gaze, then it dropped to all fours and moved forward with a menacing cough.

In the calmness that comes of extreme fright the girl moved quietly away. A glance to the rear showed the bear lumbering after her with slow relentless intent. Emboldened by the sight of her retreating, the animal's pace quickened to a cumbrous trot.

Judy's nerves snapped then and she began to run with frank abandon. The bear, like all wild things, was spurred on by the sight of a creature in flight. He came on at a heavy run that made the thick hide sway and roll on his back and shoulders.

Judy knew she could not hope to escape by running if the bear was really bent on bringing her down. Desperately she tried to think of a safe refuge, then into her mind flashed the picture of the deserted woods cabin of old Anse Dugmore, who years before trapped along the Clearwater. The old cabin lay over the next ridge a half mile away, and toward it Judy sped, running now with all her strength. She cried out senselessly as she ran: "Jesse! Jesse!" but of course no answer came.

Her strong, young limbs were fleet, but the bear began to gain on her. Even terror could not make her swift enough. On the slope she slipped amid stone and fell momentarily asprawl. She slipped again as she started on, scrambled for a space on hands and knees, sobbing hysterically, for the bear was but a few rods behind her. Then on again, running full speed and recklessly down the far side of the ridge.

She reached the comparatively cleared space back of the old cabin in the nick of time; for though the bear was closing the gap between them, his hereditary fear of man and man-made dwellings prevailed in those final moments against his closing with quarry—doubtless the margin between life and death.

MINUS her tam, her breath coming in a sobbing double action beyond all control, Judy spurted across the clearing with the last of her strength and burst in at the cabin door which was mercifully half open. She slammed it shut behind her. Its crude, heavy cross-bar was warped and thick with dust and dirt, but still intact. She dropped it in place then stood trembling in the centre of the single room while she strove to regain her breath, and listened for some sign of her pursuer.

Not a sound. Her glance flew to the two windows. They were small and high and would scarcely admit the bear's bulky body should he bash them in. But the rear door—that was a flimsy thing made of inch planks and sagged on its rickety hinges. Someone had nailed an old board diagonally across it to hold it in place. It would offer small resistance if the bear tried to force an entrance.

After a minute she heard the bear sniffing and scraping at the front door with his powerful claws. She stiffened with dread as it creaked and gave under the brute's weight. Over by the fireplace was an ancient split-pine table, and this she dragged over against the door. It might help a little, but there was nothing to brace it with.

Then there was silence for a space. Judy strained her ears and presently she could hear her besieger padding around the cabin seeking some easier means of access. She hurried to one of the windows from which the glass had been broken and once more her call for help rang across the wooded slopes. An echo replied. Dwindling, mocking, off among the far pines. She called once more, then a gasp of fresh terror came from her closing throat, as she saw the frail planks of the rear door slowly giving inward.

WHEN Jesse had put a pine ridge between him and the Mellott cabin, he strove to get hold of his surging emotions. Already he had begun to wonder if he had been too hasty in jumping to conclusions. In his hot-headed wrath he hadn't even given Judy a chance to speak. But she was not one easily to retract either words or actions. In his ears was still the short, unequivocal sound of the cabin door closing behind the girl, so he kept on for a mile or more. Then another angle presented itself.

Even if Judy had been seeing Ansell Gregg in his absence, maybe she wasn't wholly to blame. Maybe things hadn't gone far between them. Could be it was all due to Gregg's conniving Anyway there was no call for him to take himself off so big and final, and leave the field open to a rival. As sweet and lovely a girl as Judy was worth fighting for.

Jesse veered about and made for a far ridge from the crest of which he could get a bird's-eye view of Judy's house. He gained the summit and halted to look down on the valley he had quitted, wondering against his will what Judy was doing and thinking back there. Then as he lingered he saw a small figure far below, climbing among the pines. He recognized Judy's plaid mackinaw. Looked like she might be following along his trail. An expression of sullen satisfaction grew on his face as he waited.

Then the girl's course veered abruptly northward, toward the Clearwater. Gregg's cabin lay that way. Could it be she was callous enough to return to Gregg the minute he was out of the way? A new and different anger flared up in Jesse that matched the mad scarlets and flaming yellows of the dying year. He dropped out of sight beyong the ridge. He would find out before returning to the mill, just how far things had gone—have it out between the three of them once and for all.

For a time thereafter he shadowed the girl as he would have shadowed a deer he had marked to kill, watching her progress from unseen vantages along the wooded hillsides; nor had he any shame in his spying, for he considered himself a cheated and injured man. When finally he lost sight of her in a wooded valley leading toward the river, Jesse struck a course down grade that would bring him out a mile upstream from Gregg's cabin. He would circle back along the bank. He'd give them time to get real cozy in the cabin; then he'd burst in and surprise the pair of them. After that—primitive justice would decide matters.

Angry as he was, Jesse had lost none of his woods cunning. A hunter of parts, he could sense danger like an animal, on the breeze, on his skin, in the soles of his feet, and the tips of his hair. So it was that he paused presently, realizing that he had felt something in all these ways for the past minute or so. Off to his left amid

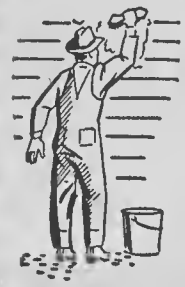
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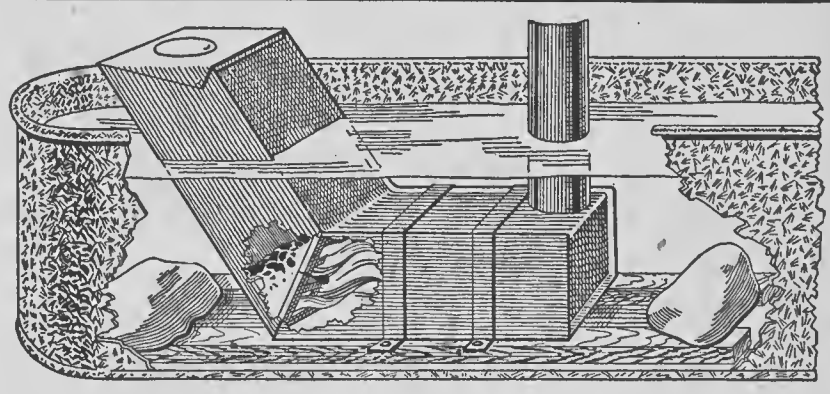
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a dense stand of spruce he had a distinct sensation of something watching him. A faint and indefinable warning had impressed his senses. Then he drew in a sharp breath as a twig snapped somewhere among the swart shadows of the trees.

Jesse, as it happened, was not the only lorn lover abroad in the bright fall woods. For a week past old Lop-horn, the bull moose whose tracks Jesse had seen that morning, had been wandering the Clearwater hills in a sleepless search for a mate. Wandering soundlessly as a phantom, without once voicing the mating call of his kind, for he knew well the price that was on his antlered head in that region. He had covered countless miles since the mating fever came upon him, but neither scent nor sign of a cow moose had he found. He was stewing this day with a wrath similar to that of Jesse Ballard, for to his dim understanding some other bull of his kind had stolen away the female Nature had intended for him in these wilds. His little eyes were reddened by enforced celibacy and he hated practically everything; the very forest with its frost-fires and all things in it seemed conspiring against him.

Usually in rutting time one can tell that a bull moose is coming hundreds of yards away by his angry snortings and snappings in the brush, but when he chooses he can drift along through the densest cover, antlers and all, with no more sound than a stalking cat. Then it is that he is really dangerous, for then he is uncertain, wily and suspicious. Drawn from a distance by Jesse's progress along the hillside, Lop-horn had shadowed the man, his great splay feet soundless on the pine needles. He knew well when a man was armed and when he was not; this one, he saw, was not dangerous today, but something, perhaps the subtle emanations of the fierce passions seething within the man, roused his brute sensibilities to a more than usual rancor. So Jesse appeared suddenly as the logical thing upon which to take out his wrath.

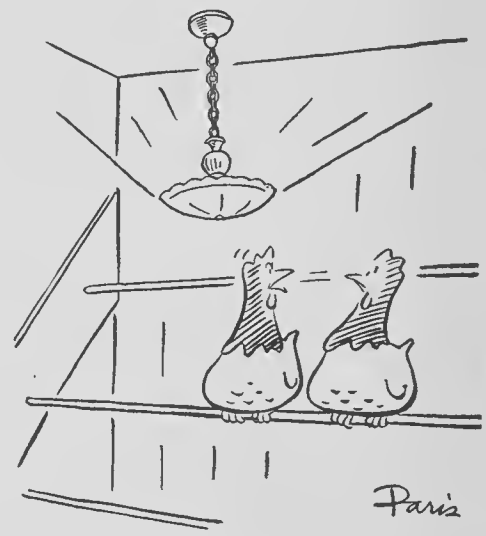
GAUNT and towering, uncouth as some creature from another world, coeval with the grim and rugged wilderness roundabout: thus Jesse Ballard glimpsed the tall bull amid the pine shadows; caught too the ember-like gleam of murder in its little wrathful eyes. The brain of an enraged bull moose, he knew, was utterly unpredictable, and there was no more dangerous animal in all the wilderness. Any sudden movement just then would have precipitated a bellowing charge. He remained stone still for a space, facing the creature, inwardly berating himself for having come off in such haste, with not even a hunting knife by way of a weapon.

Quietly he began to move on along his course, making for an opening in thickets ahead. Another snap and he was sure that the moose was following along a converging course. He moved on, assuming an attitude of unconcern. Then a vast *whooshing* sound filled his ears, and old Lop-horn's towering form came breasting through the thickets. Jesse ran then without shame, for the nearest climbable tree, a low-branched spruce, as the bull with a wrathful bellow pounded after him as on the wings of a high wind. With not an instant to spare the man swung himself into the higher branches as the monster swept beneath him, turned and came raging back again.

For the next five minutes Jesse Ballard witnessed a display of wrath and vindictiveness that dwarfed the anger in his own chest to the glimmering point, and made him quake from the sheer reflex of the thing. The lower branches of the spruce were splintered and the thickets roundabout trampled flat by the vengeful hoofs of the tall bull.

Jesse knew just what ailed old Lop-horn. Though far from a psychologist, he was aware that he was looking down on an object lesson of all the passions that had seethed in his own breast for the past hour, working themselves out in counterpart as to rabid spleen and general cussedness. A faint smile twitched at his leathery cheek as deeper understanding grew.

After a time Lop-horn tired of his tantrum. The edge of his ill-nature had worn off and he melted into a dense covert some hundred yards away. He had not withdrawn, however, Jesse knew well. He would be waiting there, moveless as a dead



"I'll grant it's an improvement, but it still means 'Get up'!"

tree but fiercely alive, his bloodshot little eyes watching with a patience unequalled by any other animal for a move on the part of the man.

HOW long Jesse might have been held prisoner thus there is no saying, but at this point a cry echoed up from the valley close by—a call for help, twice repeated. Judy Mellott's voice, shot through with an urgency of sheer terror!

Jesse knew the region like the palm of his hand, knew that it came from the vicinity of the old Dugmore cabin. He hesitated not an instant. As surreptitiously as possible he slipped down from his high perch and dropped to the ground with the tree trunk between him and his jailer. But a rattling in the brush told he had been seen. Bending low he sped down the slope and immmediately an angry bawl and a crashing in the thickets told of pursuit.

Dodging like a harried rabbit through the brush, Jesse kept to the cleared places, his heart faltering within him at the thudding sounds behind that told of a nine-foot monster gathering its speed. His far-carrying call as he plunged down the ridge reached Judy's ears like an answer to a prayer. The bear heard too. Instantly his stealthy pressure against the door-planks ceased. The girl flew to the front door and flung it recklessly wide to warn Jesse of the danger that lurked outside, but her cry died in her throat at what she saw; Jesse speeding across the clearing, and

behind him the looming apparition of old Lop-horn, his great hoofs thudding the earth, knife-edged bludgeons that could pound a human into purple mud.

Scarcely thirty feet ahead of the vast bull, Jesse plunged through the cabin door which Judy flung shut behind him. Then as the girl flew into his opened arms, there rose from without a tumult of brawls, snarls and bellows that turned their tension into sheer amazement.

As Lop-horn halted just outside the slammed door, he was confronted by the sudden apparition of the bear just rounding the corner of the cabin, jaws open in a savage snarl. Ordinarily bear and moose tacitly avoid one another in their comings and goings, through a mutual and well-warranted respect of prowess. Now all such inhibitions were swept away and the situation forced its own swift denouement. Doubtless in the dull brain of the bear, the moose was trying to rob him of his kill. As for old Lop-horn, he had reached that state of fierce distemper where he was simply spoiling for battle; any living thing at that moment would have answered the purpose of his lawful victim. Therefore the fury with which the big bull charged with lowered antlers was only equalled by the bear's slow and deadly determination to annihilate this interloper.

They met with a resounding shock, the bear coughing his rage, upreared like a wrestler for the deadly infighting at which he was adept. But he was flung to the ground by the threshing, bludgeoning blows of Lop-horn's antlers backed by many hundredweight of bone and sinew and activated by a vindicative rage that passed all understanding. He came up again, but bash and flail as he would with his great forearms he could not close with his attacker.

The conflict, though stupendous and breath-taking, was short. Despite his weight and agility, the bear's ribs were all but staved in by the impact of Lop-horn's flailing forehoofs. When he had been rolled end over end three times he finally decided to call it quits. This was no ordinary moose, but a devil incarnate, and the bear's uncanny brain was aware that he was far out-matched in a mortal conflict that could end only in his own death. As soon as he was in the clear again he scuttled without shame for cover. But he had gone but a dozen yards before Lop-horn reared above him and a death blow landed mercifully upon his spine.

FROM the cabin window Judy and Jesse, shaken by wonder and exhaltation over the titanic struggle, marked the end, as Lop-horn made sure and double sure of his victory by pounding and trampling his adversary into an ensanguined heap that resembled nothing that had ever lived. He was rubbing out, Jesse knew, not only an ancient foe, but all the thwarted fury of weeks of abstinence.

When he had quite finished he stretched forth his great black-belled neck and sent an uncouth bawling cry out across the forested hills—the mating call of the bull moose. What followed was as startling to the two in the cabin as it could have been to Lop-horn himself. From off beyond a line of fir-clad hills came an answering plaint from a cow moose, a soft, alluring call yet at the same time tentative, questioning. The big bull's fury fell away on the instant. He answered with a deep-tone rumble filled with an impetuousness ill-concealed. When a second and peremptory summons came in answer, he melted into the forest in the direction of the sound, silent as a drifting shadow.

His blue eyes strangely bright, Jesse smiled happily down at the girl. "Looks like Old Lop-horn's found himself a mate at last, I do declare," he breathed. "Could be we'll see a real moose band in these old hills again."

Then for the dozenth time he drew Judy to him and kissed her long and wordlessly. Judy pressed her slim, young body against Jesse's clean, new corduroys and kissed him hungrily in return. She had told him in breathless snatches what had transpired since they parted at the cabin, and Jesse had confessed how he happened to be near enough to answer her call for help. Out of the miracle of their coming together each had had vast realizations in the deeper folds of being, of things too often missed or coated over throughout an entire life.

". . . But Jesse," Judy said, "you haven't even asked me to explain things—about Ansell Gregg—"

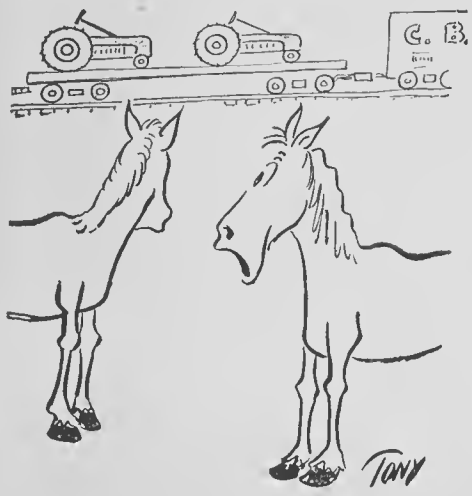
"You don't need to, honey," Jesse said, "I knew inside 'twas all right 'fore I'd got a hundred yards away, but I was too big a tomfool to admit it. I'm to blame for all this, Judy. I was crazy—crazy as old Lop-horn. Part of the mad fall weather, I guess. But that's something that won't ever happen again—"

"All the same," cried Judy waspishly, "you're going to hear the explanation. I should have told you first off, instead of getting spunky and letting you go off like you did. Ansell Gregg and Angela Dupre are getting married Sunday, Jesse. Gregg's got a job over at Deep Creek, and Angela and I have been over at his cabin every day, fixing it up for the ceremony—"

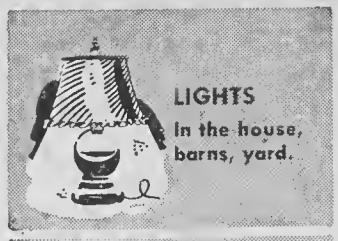
Judy's red-gold hair was fragrant as wild honey, her eyes were stars; inside him Jesse felt a terrible yearning ache. From the troubled depths of his spirit there budded now a profound contrition and humility.

"Used to be I hated Ansell Gregg," Jesse grinned wryly. "Now I figure he's a right smart feller. Oh, I've come to see a sight of things in the past two hours! Honey," he said chokingly, "it don't seem decent somehow, us loving each other so much and not being together. Here we got the whole week-end ahead of us. Won't you—couldn't you make it a double wedding Sunday?"

"Oh Jesse—Let's!"

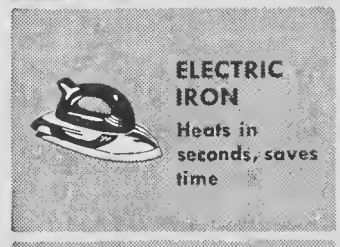


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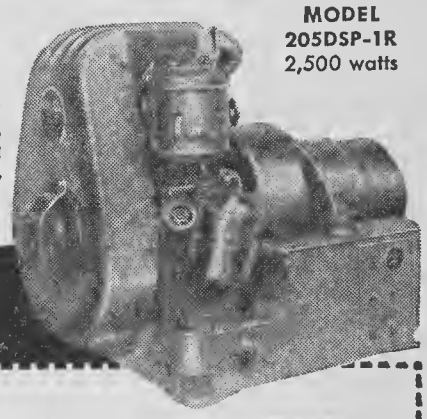
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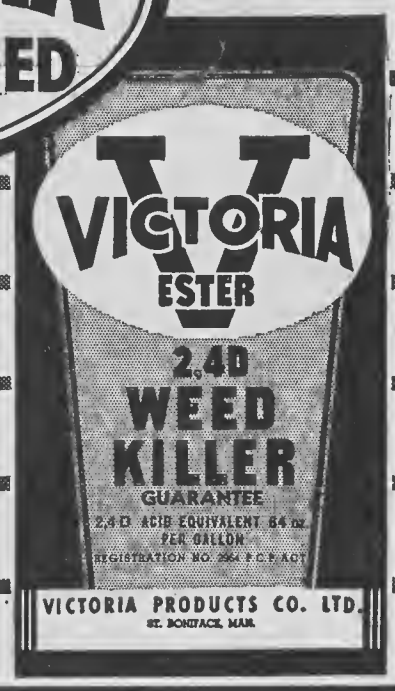


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Nonsense About Britain

A New York publication, The New Republic, puts the finger on popular misstatements about Britain's economic difficulties

THE Senior Editor of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, E. T. Leech, ended a few days ago his widely syndicated series of articles on conditions in Britain. They caused an ugly international storm of recriminations; they did maximum harm to Anglo-American relations at a critical moment in world history, and their general argument and conclusion were completely misleading.

To be sure, Leech (who comes from Pittsburgh and is best known for his occasional syndicated paeans of praise for free enterprise) quoted most of his statistics correctly. While savagely attacking the present British government, he recognized that it has done some good things. He admitted, for example, that the health of the working class is better than ever before, and that the system of socialized medicine is now supported by everyone, including the Conservatives, and is here to stay. But his major thesis, which he expounded over and over, is that "socialism" is responsible for nearly everything that is wrong in Britain. His articles were accompanied by a series of savagely simple cartoons driving home the same point.

Yet everyone, except Leech, who has studied the British situation knows that this is not true. Even if socialism were all that Leech says it is, only a few industries have been nationalized; and they have been under state control too short a time to make much difference one way or the other.

The real cause of Britain's predicament can be put into half a dozen sentences. Her present population of nearly 50 million is at least two and a half times as many people as the natural resources of the British Isles can support. Britain must import about two-thirds of her food and most of the raw materials for her manufacturers. Before the war, she did this by investing her money all over the world—at least $14 billion of it—and letting the interest and dividends come home in the form of goods, not money. She also created credits, all over the world, by shipping, insurance, banking and other "invisible items."

During the Second World War, and for the purpose of defeating Hitler, which later also became our own (aim), she sold at least half of her investments abroad, by far the better half (many things could not be sold at all) and at distress prices. She also went into debt about $12 billion. Today she has to go on buying in order not to starve, and at prices which, on the average, have nearly trebled.

In the sterling area, her trade is in balance; but in the dollar area, this is not true. Her problem is made more difficult by the fact that she is the dollar-banker for the whole sterling area, and must solve the exchange problem for all other countries in it.

Geoffrey Crowther, editor of the *Economist*, London, is a Conservative, highly respected on both sides of the Atlantic, no friend of the Labor Government. Listen to his testimony (in an interview in *US News and World Report*) on some of the points raised by Leech:

Is socialism doing Britain any harm? "I question whether it is doing any real damage. . . . I don't think it is having much effect yet. . . . The (nationalized) industries are still being run by very much the same people and in very much the same way that they were before."

Is new private investment being discouraged? "No, not to any very large extent."

Leech in his series says that the British are not working very hard, and that this accounts for part of their trouble. For comment, let us call as witness the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The ECE reports that the United Kingdom's industrial production is 31 per cent higher than in 1938. The figure for Belgium, so often cited as a model of thrift and hard work, is only 22 per cent. The Netherland's figure is also 22 per cent. Italy's is 10 per cent lower than prewar.

Are the British not trying hard enough in regard to exports? British exports are 50 per cent above the level of 1938. They are 90 per cent higher than imports. No other country comes anywhere near this; in Belgium and France, for example, the figure is 18 per cent.

ARE the British, as Leech suggests, just lying back and letting us take care of them? Marshall Plan aid is used almost entirely for imports. It constitutes only 12 per cent of British imports, as against 41 per cent of Italy's and 48 per cent of those of France. Great Britain is the only Marshall Plan country that is earning a higher proportion of its dollar requirements than before the war. It is doing so even with the pound at $4, which many people consider about 25 per cent too high.

Leech makes much of the steep British tax rates, suggesting that they discourage individual initiative, and mentions several times a tax rate of 97.5 per cent. He omits to mention however, that this rate applies only to that part of an individual's net income which is higher than $80,000 a year. In other words, taxation is applied on a sliding scale, just as it is in the U.S., where we take 91 per cent of income over $200,000. Taxes in Great Britain are extremely high, but no one is taxed 97.5 per cent of his total income.

In a free democracy, nobody can or should try to prevent Leech from rocking the boat in the middle of a storm, if he wants to. But many will question his right at the same time to point out a lot of mythical sea monsters just over the gunwhale.



Rat Control Experiences

Dogs and cats provide the backbone for his methods, but this Alberta farmer has learned some refinements

by EMIL LORENTSON



Freda, the black, and Spotty ride with Margaret on the ancient but reliable Chief. These two dogs were aces in Mr. Lorentson's anti-rat drive.

BACK in Wisconsin when I was a child, the rats were so bad that the granary and corn cribs were always set up on blocks about three feet high and some sheet metal nailed to the block so the rats couldn't climb on the block to get to the cribs.

We had a feed mill in conjunction with our creamery and the rats got so bad that they would chew holes in dozens of sacks in a night in spite of the fact we would leave a pile on the floor for them to eat. They were the same everywhere but it seemed the odor from the creamery attracted every rat in the country. At that time people were afraid of using poison for fear of the rats getting into the well as they said the rats always hit for water when they get poison.

Something had to be done so we fixed the wells so the rats couldn't get into them. Then we had a big bee and everybody carried brooms or long-handled shovels or the like to swat the rats with as we got to them. (Rats don't burrow deep, especially in the summer.)

We ripped the floor out of the feed mill, moved every bit of rubbish on the place and believe it or not, we got hundreds of rats that day.

Then we started to use poison, mouse traps, more cats and dogs. We took time to train the cats and dogs by helping them to get to the rats, which they knew were under some rubbish. Everybody else got the notion and the rats were exterminated to such an extent that I didn't see a rat for years after.

IN 1923 I stacked up 18,000 oat sheaves on a place where no one had lived and it was in an area which had been more or less abandoned, so gophers and mice had open range. We moved on there in 1924 and to our aggravation we found 10,000 sheaves literally ruined by mice and gophers.

Our family acquired the two dogs in the picture—kept up to 14 cats at times—used poison traps, always took time to help the dogs when they had some vermin corralled where they could not get at them. And here is our reward, and it shows the value of cats and dogs besides the pleasure to little boys and girls for playmates. In 1927 we were hailed, so our oats were not worth threshing. We stacked up 30,000 oat sheaves which lasted until 1930, three years, and never a sign of a mouse in any of the stacks.

Keep lots of cats and let them have kittens. That's when they work. Don't starve them. Give them cream of wheat porridge. Mix in oatmeal. They don't seem to like it. Skim-milk, bread, etc., with very little meat. Their craving for meat and fat will keep them on the rat hunt. Some people say a cat can't kill a rat. Admittedly, some of those big bull rats are strong, but if you get a good breed of killer and hunter, the kind that looks like a tiger, and has had a few years' experience at killing, believe me it's too bad for the rat if the cat gets hold of the rat's neck first. Get traps by the dozens and lay them in boxes in different places. Just have a hole in the box large enough for the rats to get into, then you won't catch the cats.

Sprinkle some flax around and over the trap and just put lard on the trap for bait. These animals seem to have a weakness for flax. If you stack up sheaves for feed, try this:

Choose a location in the field some distance away from the buildings so the chickens and pigs don't get out there. Plow up the ground where you are to set the stack. I prefer the one large stack. Put down a load or two of straw and burn it. Make sure the fire is all out before stacking. It may take days. Work the ashes down onto the plowed ground. Better still, sprinkle some lime on the ground, too.

Make one furrow as deep as possible around your stacking. Throw your furrow out so there will be a straight up and down side towards your stack which will make it hard for rats and mice to get up. This will make them run along the bottom of the furrow. If you have placed what you believe to be the best poison in the furrow, you will be amazed at your catch. Don't kill weasels or badgers. All farms have some rubbish such as post lumber, etc., but it can be laid up in such a way that the cats and dogs can get under the piles.

Now dogs such as those shown in the picture will kill one hundred to one to cats, as they will follow you out into the fields and do not kill for food. But you need both dogs and cats. Terriers won't get cranky if you don't allow anyone to tease them when they are small. If you are pestered with rats, terriers are really valuable.



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Devaluation

Continued from page 7

Immediate prospects of the effects of devaluation on cattle prices are also favorable. Canadian cattlemen will be better able to compete with American producers. Canadian cattle are already going into the American market in substantial volume and the effect of devaluation will be that these cattle will bring an increased price when the returns are calculated in Canadian currency, because the same number of American dollars will now command about 10 per cent more Canadian dollars. However, certain members of the United States Congress have already expressed concern over the influx of Canadian cattle, and, though it is unlikely that they will have a significant influence, it is possible that the picture might be altered.

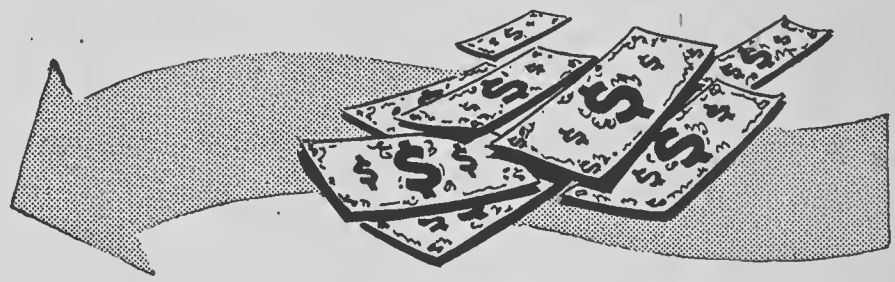
BECAUSE eggs and bacon are on a contract basis with Britain, and because of the high domestic demand for them, it is unlikely that there will be price increases for these products. Because these contracts were made in terms of Canadian dollars, and the surplus over and above the contracts is largely being taken up by domestic consumers, the Canadian producer is not likely to realize any immediate benefits from devaluation.

Canada now has a contract to deliver 50 million pounds of cheese to Britain. It appears that we will have a surplus over and above that required under the contract and by domestic consumers. Insofar as this can be marketed in the United States, devaluation will lead to a somewhat better price for it, and may well have the effect of stabilizing cheese prices.

The outlook for some Canadian fruits is probably not as bright, and devaluation is not likely to improve it unless sales can be made in the American market. The attempt may be made to sell some surplus fruit in Britain at low prices, with losses to be absorbed by the Federal Government under the Agricultural Prices Support Act.

The higher prices that farmers will gain as a result of devaluation will not mean a full increase in profits. It is likely that there will be some rise in prices of goods that the farmer uses, if these products are made in the United States, or if parts or raw materials that go into their manufacture come from the States.

The Canadian farmer has no immediate reason to feel unhappy about changes in his prospects brought about by devaluation. There is likely to be an increase in the prices of some goods that he buys, but any increase will probably be more than offset by an increase in the prices of goods that he sells. Added to this it puts Canadian farmers in a more favorable position to compete with American producers. On the other hand, in the long run, it could have an adverse effect on our entry into British markets. The fact that the British pound which used to buy approximately two bushels of Canadian wheat will now buy only one and a half, could sooner or later force Britain to look elsewhere for available supplies and so force a lowering of our prices, if we are to compete for the British trade.



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Soil Conservation In The Peace

The views of an agriculturist whose work is located in the section of the West where erosion is an acute threat

by **C. H. ANDERSON**

SOIL conservation is a common topic of conversation in most parts of Canada today but nowhere is it more seriously discussed than in the Peace River region of Alberta and British Columbia. Farmers are deeply interested in the problem and are seriously considering what action can be taken. Their problem is not one of wind or water erosion or of decreased fertility alone but rather a combination of the three. The peculiar composition of the wooded soils of the region makes them extremely susceptible to wind and water erosion. Also, the wooded soils which exist in many districts are relatively low in initial fertility and unless soil improving crops such as alfalfa and sweet clover are used in rotation they soon decline in productivity.

For years the late Dr. Albright drew attention to the damage being wrought by water erosion in the Peace and to a large degree his warning fell on deaf ears. Nevertheless he was convinced that water erosion was more to be feared than wind erosion and throughout his lifetime he continued to emphasize the loss of precious top-soil resulting from sheet and gully erosion. Anyone who has travelled the various byways of the Peace River region and crossed the valleys of the mighty Peace, the Smoky, or Wapiti rivers is well aware of what water can do.

In July of 1946 the writer was caught in a driving shower near Dawson Creek in British Columbia. Ditches were soon filled to overflowing and water was gushing down the slopes in that rolling country, washing the grain with it. In a few hours new gulleys were formed and old ones were several feet deeper. On fields of only one per cent slope soil was moved en masse to plow depth and deposited on the nearby highway. This has happened and will happen again. Soils investigators were working in the district at the time and are convinced that water erosion is a definite threat in the Peace.

And what of erosion by wind? Wind erosion has brought about considerable damage in the more open sections of the region for a number of years. The Grande Prairie, Pouce Coupe, Rycroft-Spirit River, Fairview, Berwyn, and Grimshaw districts have been mainly effected. Many fields have been stripped of the top-soil and unless preventive measures are resorted to we may in the future be building fence upon fence. Let there be no mistake about it, soil drifting can ruin our farms as surely as it has in many parts of the prairies.

In order to plan a line of attack it is first necessary to survey the problem. What are the chief factors contributing to erosion in the Peace? Firstly, the physical properties of the soil are such that a heavy rain or rapid snow melt will churn up the soil and carry it down the slope. Furthermore the slowly permeable subsoil takes up moisture slowly and washing will start on the slightest provocation. Other causes of erosion, of course, are sloping land and torrential rains.

During the war years, and more especially during the past two years new land has been cleared at an alarming rate throughout the length and breadth of northern Alberta and British Columbia. It is conservatively estimated that new land is being cleared and broken to the extent of 100,000 acres per year. This means that an additional 100,000 acres per year are being exposed to the elements.

In addition, no serious consideration has been given to the type of land being cleared. A few far-sighted individuals are clearing only the level or gently undulating land and leaving belts of trees at intervals, but much of the land that is being cleared includes steep slopes which would be better left in tree cover. Already many farmers have sensed that disaster is imminent if something is not done to stop this indiscriminate removal of natural cover.

In June of 1947 a meeting of agriculturists and interested farmers was called by Superintendent Stacey of the Beaverlodge station to discuss soil conservation. At this meeting farmers were unanimous in their desire for a definite conservation program. The general feeling was that a well coordinated program should be inaugurated at the earliest possible date.

There are some who believe that the provincial governments concerned should enact legislation to control land clearing and thus prevent the removal of cover from certain lands. Others are firm in their conviction that compulsion is undesirable and unnecessary. However, all are agreed that action should be taken and that there is no time to waste. This opinion is of course unanimously supported by the various agricultural workers in the region. The question seems to be what to do and who should do it.

The Alberta Department of Lands and Mines has indicated action by withdrawing large areas of crown land from settlement until it is definitely established that selected portions are pre-eminently more suited to agriculture than to forestry. Once this decision is made steps are taken to develop the land for settlement and in this program the department has the active co-operation of the Dominion soil specialists.

ONE result is the well-known Wanham project which this summer is providing homes for 30 veteran farmers, with many more government-made farms in prospect in this and adjoining projects. Nor is the British Columbia Department of Lands unaware



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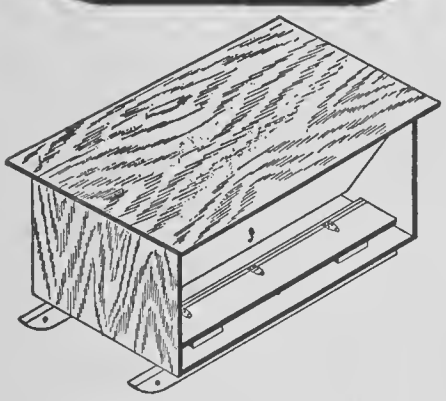
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of its responsibilities to the Peace River block. Survey parties have been in the field for at least two years and it is expected that a definite policy of land development will be announced shortly.

What do we mean by conservation and how is it to be accomplished? The term conservation has been much abused and possibly we would do well to use another term such as proper land use, soil preservation, or economic land utilization. In any event it is the preservation of the soil in as nearly its original state of fertility as possible that we are concerned with. If the land is level, or only gently sloping little difficulty will be experienced in preventing erosion. By taking common sense precautions and by rotating crops, the land can be utilized from generation to generation without drastic protective action. It is recognized, however, that even on level land there is a gradual loss in fertility as the result of erosion and leaching. It is therefore important that we employ the best known preventive measures to combat the wear and tear on our soils.

If steep slopes are being farmed or if large areas of farm land are exposed to extensive damage by wind and water erosion more direct action may be necessary. It may be advisable to cultivate or otherwise work the land on the contour. At any rate the land should be worked across the slope rather than up and down. Also, grass strips at intervals may be useful and water should be diverted down runways where it will do the least possible damage. In many instances the advice of trained agricultural engineers who understand land use problems will be required to study the problem and to plan measures of control.

What are the immediate effects of uncontrolled tree removal? First of all if large areas of high land are cleared completely they will in all likelihood be exposed and subjected to erosion by wind. With the clearing of native vegetation from natural water courses, gulleys may soon be cut by flood waters, or if these natural drainage areas are dammed, water may be diverted in such a manner that water is backed up and allowed to take a heavy toll in fan erosion. Snow traps may be destroyed with the result that small streams dry up and the supply of water for livestock cut off. In like fashion the ground water supply upon which farm wells depend may be depleted. These and many other associated problems may be the direct result of an indiscriminate land clearing program.

In the Wanham project these matters have been carefully considered and provision has been made to leave belts of trees for wind protection. Provision is also made for woodlots and attention is given to dugout sites and drainage fields to guarantee a water supply. Farmers who anticipate clearing should give some thought to following such a plan.

While no detailed wind or water erosion experiments have yet been undertaken at Beaverlodge or elsewhere in the Peace River region, careful observations have been made at the Experimental Station and simple and fundamental precautions taken to prevent or lessen the danger of erosion.

Some years ago a number of washes on the Beaverlodge station were consolidated and re-directed into a grassed ditch in such a manner that further erosion was prevented. Other areas which threatened to erode have been seeded down to pasture. Where land is to be cropped at the bottom of a slope care is always taken to have strips further up the slope grassed down. It is the practice on the station to keep all land in grass fully one-third of the time so as to maintain adequate fibre content.

THE prevention of water erosion is not a difficult matter in a relatively flat country where water can be diverted or directed down grassed runways which have been graded to reduce the run-off. Similarly, land which is subject to serious washing or blowing can be seeded down to suitable grasses or grass-legume mixtures.

One of the main programs of work conducted on the eight Illustration stations in the region is that of establishing suitable crop rotations to improve soil fertility and to build up fibre in the soil to guard against wind erosion and to a lesser degree water erosion. Such rotations now established on five of the Illustration stations are proving extremely satisfactory in improving the soil and fertility, and soil drifting is not considered a serious menace on these stations.

On the grey-wooded soils a four-year rotation of summerfallow—wheat—sweet clover—wheat is favored but where wind or water erosion is a problem a grass-legume mixture is employed. At the Fairview station, for instance, where soil drifting has become a serious threat of late years, a seven-year rotation of summerfallow — wheat—wheat—hay—hay—wheat — wheat has been laid down. The fields are run crosswise to the prevailing wind in 35-acre strips. In reality, modified strip farming is being practised while a mixture of sweet clover and brome grass is incorporated in the rotation to build up the fibre and nitrogen content of the soil. This type of rotation holds considerable promise for the soil drifting areas of the Peace River region.

Soil fertility work on the stations points to the value of legumes in soil improvement. Sweet clover, because of its short life, fits into a short-term rotation extremely well and is relatively inexpensive to use. At three stations, sweet clover has increased the yield of wheat following it by five bushels per acre or 21 per cent. In addition, sweet clover has increased the bacterial life of this soil.

In areas where moisture has not been a limiting factor sweet clover has taken the place of summerfallow. Where long-term rotations are desirable, alfalfa and brome grass can be used to good advantage. The grain crops following the plowing of such a mixture have given considerably higher yields than grain following the plowing of grass swards. In addition, soil fibre has been maintained, bacterial life stimulated, and valuable plant food added to the soil.

In view of the accelerated land clearing program which has been made possible by the heavy machinery now available for the purpose, farmers would do well to survey their individual situations with a view to determining if and how they are affected. If the clearing of more land is anticipated, every consideration should be given to leaving water courses undisturbed, tree belts at strategic locations to break the wind, and snow traps to conserve snow melt for the farm dugout.

If the soil is being washed or blown from fields now under cultivation reflect on what has happened elsewhere and resolve to do something about it. No matter what the situation, plan to follow a definite cropping practise using grasses and legumes. A little planning now will help to conserve your farm for the generations who will depend upon it for a livelihood in the future. Every farm owner and his family should have a hand in the soil conservation program.

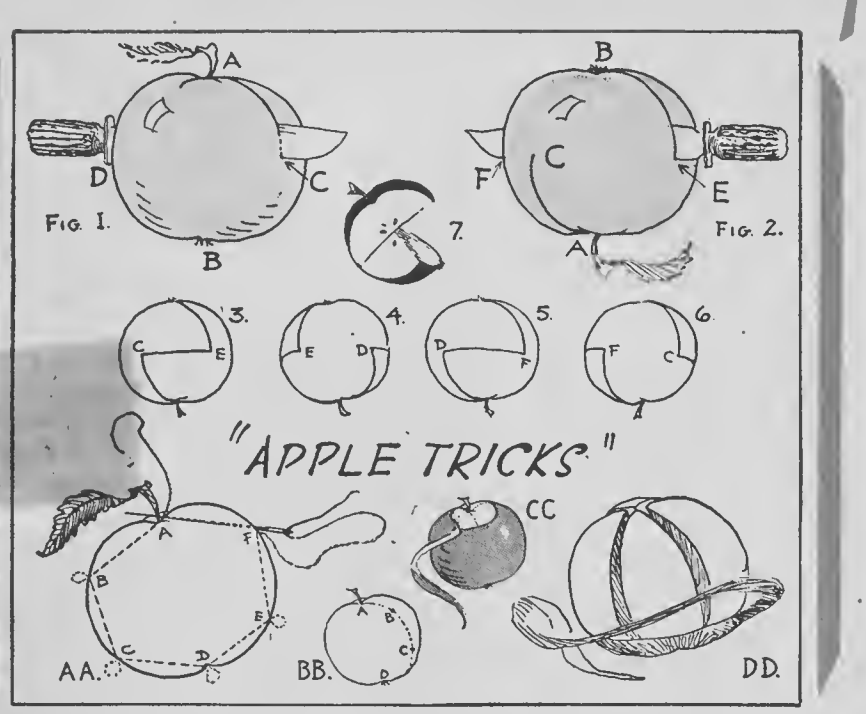
Further information regarding rotations may be obtained by writing to the Dominion Experimental Station at Beaverlodge, Alberta, if you reside in the Peace River region, or to the station serving your own locality.

C. H. Anderson is Assistant Superintendent, Dominion Experimental Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta.



Professor E. A. Hardy of the University of Saskatchewan is in the driver's seat discussing tractors with two company officials and with Professor T. L. Coulthard of the University of British Columbia who is on the extreme right. This is part of a tour they made with a group of agricultural engineering students from the prairies who are studying the manufacture of agricultural machinery in Canada and northern United States.

The Country Boy and Girl



OCTOBER brings us Hallowe'en with pumpkins, black cats, witches, ghosts, Hallowe'en parties and apples. This month we have two apple tricks to use at Hallowe'en parties or to try out on your friends. Imagine the surprise of your guest when he peels a trick apple and it magically falls apart in his hands yet the skin of the apple is not cut! Ask another guest to try to pull an apple apart and when he does so the apple comes apart in two queer shapes. Here are your apple tricks.

To Divide an Apple Without Cutting the Skin: The drawing will show you the steps to follow. Take a needle and strong thread. Insert the needle beside the stem of an apple as at A, push it through to B. Pull the needle out and inserting it in the same hole B push it through to C. Repeat as shown in drawing until the thread completely encircles the apple inside the skin and the needle is pulled out again at A from the opposite side. A sharp pull of the two ends of the thread will cut the apple completely through inside the skin. Now peel the apple and presto it falls into four sections!

Cutting an Apple in a Queer Shape: With a sharp knife cut half way through the apple as in Figure 1. Turn the apple upside down and make a similar cut at right angles to it as in Figure 2. Now turn the apple on its side, insert the knife at C and make a cut from C to E, taking care to push the point of the knife only to the centre of the apple. Skip space ED and rolling the apple farther on its side make a similar cut from DF. The apple should now fall apart in the shape shown in Figure 7.

Ann Sankey

The Jack-O'-Kitten

by MARY E. GRANNAN

A LITTLE lost kitten went meowing down the avenue. The wind was blowing all around and about him, and the little lost kitten found it very hard to stay on the ground. He was lonely and cold, and cried softly to himself, "I wish I could find a home for myself. I wish a little boy would come along and pick me up and take me home with him."

He had no sooner said the words to himself, than he heard the sound of merry laughter, and a little boy came blowing around the corner. He saw the little kitten and stopped to say, "Hello, little kitten. It's a very windy day. The first thing you know, you'll be blown right off your feet. You'd better go home."

"I have no home," said the kitten. "I had a home, but I've lost it. The wind blew me far from my home, and now I've no place to go. I wish the sun would shine, and I wish it would get nice and warm."

The little boy laughed. "It's no use to be wishing that, little kitten, because this is Hallowe'en. The warm weather is over until spring comes again. Didn't you know that?"

"No," said the kitten. "Then what shall I do? I cannot stay out-of-doors. Little boy, would you take me home with you?"

"Well," said the little boy, "I can take you home, I suppose, but I don't think my mother will let me keep you. I promised my mother when she bought me my bowl of goldfish that I wouldn't ask for any more pets until we moved to the country. But she might let you stay tonight, because it's so windy. Come on! We'll see what she has to say."

When the little boy's mother saw him coming with the kitten, she looked at him sharply. "I know what you're going to say, Mum, but this little kitten is lost and cold and hungry. May he stay here tonight?"

Mother shook her head. "No, Tommy," she said. "You may feed him, and let him get warm. But I know how it will be if I let the kitten stay for one night. In the morning you will beg and coax to keep him, and we have no room for any more people in our flat. You remember your promise, don't you?"

"Oh yes, Mum," said Tommy. "I promised if you got me the goldfish, I wouldn't ask for any more pets, until we went to the country. But Mum, this is different!"

"I'm sorry dear," said mother firmly, "but I'm afraid I cannot change my mind."

The little kitten heard what she had said to the little boy, and without stopping to drink his milk, he ran into the living room, to look for a place to hide. He saw the jack-o'-lantern on the window sill. He leaped into it, and sat very still.

The little boy and his mother hunted everywhere in the house for that kitten, and could not find him. At last they gave up the search. The wind was blowing harder than ever as the evening wore on, and mother said that Tommy had best not light the jack-o'-lantern. "The flame of the candle," she said, "might blow against the drapes and start a fire."

The wind was still howling when Tommy went to bed. Tommy's mother brushed back the coals in the fireplace, before she went upstairs. "I think it will be safe enough to leave these few coals."

But in the night the wind blew fiercely down the chimney, and tossed one of the red coals to the carpet in front of the fireplace. In no time at all, flames were eating their way through the rug. The little kitten smelled the smoke. He leaped from his hiding place in the jack-o'-lantern. He tried to put out the flames with his little paws, but when he could not, he yowled loudly for help.

Tommy and his mother and father came racing down the stairs. When the little lost kitten heard them coming, he leaped back into the jack-o'-lantern.

It did not take Johnny's father very long, with the aid of two pails of water to put out the flames.

"We'd have had a bad fire, if that cat hadn't yowled," he said. "Where is the cat?"

"It's a little lost kitten, daddy," said Tommy. "I brought him home. Mum said I couldn't keep him, and he heard her, and he ran away and hid some place. We couldn't find him."

"Well," said Tommy's father, "it's a good thing for us that he did hide. He's very welcome to stay now. He saved us tonight. I wonder where he can be hiding?"

"Yeow," said the kitten, poking his head up from the jack-o'-lantern.

"Well, upon my word!" said Tommy's father. "He's been hiding in the jack-o'-lantern. Hello, little kitty, you've just found yourself a home. Did you know that?"

"And you've found yourself a name, too," laughed Tommy. "I'm going to call you Jack-O'-Kitten."

And from that day on, the little lost kitten was called Jack-O'-Kitten.

Why Be Bashful?

DO you feel a bit shy when company drops in, or when you are out at the young folks' party? If you do, it is only because you have not yet learned how to handle such needless feelings.

Why be bashful? All you need is a good self-examination. Something or someone has somehow given you the idea that you are not quite as smart as others your age. To get rid of that silly feeling try this simple experiment.

Make a score card and on it write a list of about ten desirable qualities such as: Neatness, good looks, dependability, sportsmanship, popularity, friendliness, interest and progress in athletics, music, hobbies or school work, etc. Now rate yourself on each quality along with two or three of your friends whom you feel are not the least bothered with shyness. Allow a score of four for "tops," three for better than average, two for average, one for lower than average, and zero for really poor. Add up the totals and if you have scored honestly you will be surprised how well you compare with your confident friends.

Shy people nearly always are timid because they think too little *of* themselves and too much *about* themselves. At a party stop thinking so much. Do more. Get busy from the time you enter the room. Pick out someone you know and start up a conversation.

If you have trouble feeling at ease in the presence of older people, again you must stop thinking about yourself. Aim to get interested in what they are saying, or find some polite and proper question to ask them. Nothing will give you confidence like the sound of your own voice. It is really your very best pal when foolish notions about yourself start jumping into your head.

The answer to any fit of shyness is to forget yourself, and instead, get yourself interested in other people. Waltz up to them with enquiries about their friends, their work, their hobbies . . . well, anything, and you will have no further trouble with bashfulness.—Walter King.

A Dream Test

DO you know what you're dreaming about? You do? Then this is just the quiz you're looking for. It's a dream test for dreamy people. Try it. Simply answer each question with a wide open "yes" or "no."

1. Will your chances of dreaming be less if you drop off to sleep quickly?
2. If you are the hard-to-wake-up-in-the-morning kind will you be more likely to remember dreams than the easy risers?
3. Are you more likely to dream when you try to go to sleep after some discouragement?
4. Will light falling on your face while you are sleeping help to make you dream?
5. If you think a lot about the past are you likely to dream about past events?
6. Do girls dream more than boys?
7. Do students who get low marks at school dream more than those who get high marks?
8. Are you more likely to have a dream if you sleep on your back instead of your side?
9. Does sleepwalking mean you want to do something which you are being prevented from doing while awake?
10. Do most dreams occur as soon as you fall asleep?
11. Can a long dream depicting events taking place over two hours actually take place in a few seconds?
12. Can you remember most of what you dream?

Now the answer to questions 7, 10, and 12 is "no" and the correct answer to all the other questions is "yes." If you have nine correct answers out of the 12 you really are not dreaming. At least you are not dreaming about what you know of dreaming.—Walter King.

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Retail Prices On British Goods

Prior to sterling devaluation, its advocates employed the logic that with cheaper sterling British goods could retail for lower prices in the dollar area, and Britain could thereby increase not only its volume of sales, but its dollar earnings. Devaluation has, as might be expected, caused a major upheaval of trade and it will be several months before the dust settles. It is not possible to say today to what extent the promise of lower prices on British goods will be realized, but the record at the time of writing is disappointing.

The British pound has been cheapened by 30.5 per cent in the United States, and by 23.6 per cent in Canada. It would be an optimistic consumer who would expect the whole of the 23 per cent drop to be reflected in the retail price of British goods which make their appearance on Canadian store counters, but there will be general dissatisfaction among buyers unless a significant share of it sifts down to them. At the moment the biggest reductions have been on British cars. An average drop for 18 models offered in Toronto showrooms is reported as 14.6 per cent. Further west, where freight haul bulks larger in the retail price, the percentage reductions will be smaller. The price decline in Winnipeg on popular models appears to be about 10 per cent.

In some lines price cuts are insignificant. Distributors concerned claim that they are carrying huge inventories bought at the old exchange rates, and that it would be unfair to expect them to take heavy inventory losses. While this may be true of some goods bought for manufacturing purposes months in advance of sale of the finished product to the ultimate consumer, the public will be slow to accept it as the general truth. The possibility of British devaluation has been a red light on the business horizon ever since the American Secretary of the Treasury assured some business heads in his country that it was "in the bag." Indeed one of the proximate causes for Britain's sharp reversal of her declared policy was the wholesale abstention from purchasing by foreign buyers who hoped to be able to buy later at lower prices, in accordance with Secretary Snyder's promise.

In some lines there have been positive indications that there would be no price decrease whatever, or such small decreases as to be negligible. The Winnipeg Free Press of September 20 reported in respect to textiles:

> "One Winnipeg department store estimated that prices on most textiles, including woollens from the United Kingdom, would show little, if any, price reduction when new stocks are brought in next year.
>
> "Textile stocks now in this store were bought previous to the imposition of a new tariff amounting to approximately 17 per cent, which became effective last July. Present prices are based on pre-tariff cost of these goods.
>
> "Store officials thought it might be possible that the tariff boost and the cost price reduction through pound devaluation would almost balance out."

The language is misleading because there was no 17 per cent tariff increase on textiles in the 1949 budget. As a contribution to the dollar difficulties at the end of 1947, Ottawa granted temporary tariff reductions on certain items. The period covered by this temporary aid came to an end on June 30, 1949. On and after July 1 the tariff was the same as that in force before November 1947. Textile retailers could have argued with greater cogency that Australian wool jumped 15 per cent immediately after sterling devaluation was announced, and that higher costs in Britain, particularly if the government fails to hold the wage line, will partially offset the effect of devaluation. They would get a better hearing if they could and did include in their observations the assurance that neither they nor their British principals took advantage of the 17 per cent reduction, while it was in force, to increase profit margins.

It is not our Canadian fashion to impose strict controls on private enterprise, but if there is to be a widespread sabotage of public policy by putting the potential benefits of sterling devaluation to Canadian consumers into the pockets of British or Canadian manufacturers or middlemen, those who are guilty will be doing an injury to themselves and to the whole business structure by reviving consumer demands for preventive controls. Sir Stafford Cripps, in his devaluation announcement, reiterated the British conviction that currency manipulation does not touch the heart of the matter. Britain's problem, which is no less Canada's, can only be solved by increasing exports to dollar markets. Devaluation is merely an instrument which may help to this end. If any considerable group of traders defeat its purpose they are helping to postpone British recovery, a necessary preliminary to multilateral trading, on which a healthy Canadian economic expansion depends.

Railway Wages And Rates

The Transport Board's authorization on September 22 of another freight rate hike deserves the poor reception it has received west of the Great Lakes. To be sure, the Commissioners have sugared the pill by designating the increase as temporary, and acknowledging in their majority judgment that the 21 per cent increase granted 18 months ago should have been only 15 per cent. On the first point the public has learned from experience that concessions handed out to special interests have a habit of sticking. On the second point it looks as though the railways, when they asked for the 30 per cent increase in 1946, must have adopted the horse trader's technique of asking twice what they expected to get, in the anticipation that the Board would split the difference. In the circumstances they must have been secretly delighted.

Temporary or not, shippers reflect that the new increase of eight per cent, on top of the 21 per cent increase previously granted makes a total increase of 30.68 per cent over the 1946 rate, and the new hike will cost the Canadian public an estimated additional $30 million to $35 million annually.

It will be observed that the railways' demands for both the last two rate increases were based on increased costs, the largest of which is the wage bill. A breakdown of railway expenses during 1948 shows that wage payments for the C.P.R. and C.N.R. together totalled $426.6 million, or 57 per cent of the total working expenses paid out in that year. Estimates provided by the two railways show that the 17 cents an hour pay increase of 1948 would add $67 million a year to the expenses of the two companies, a sum twice as large as the expected revenue from the rate increase of last month. It did more. It created a labor aristocracy for the railway workers of Canada. The Guide is not competent to say what a locomotive engineer, or any other technical transportation worker ought to be paid, but it shares in the common knowledge that railways hire large numbers of employees not in the running trades, whose work is similar to that of men and women engaged in other activities, but whose rates of pay are much higher. The Manitoba government's brief to the Royal Commission presented by R. E. Moffat, quotes the following current monthly rates paid by the C.N.R. for some of these classes:

Clerk	$278.57
Clerk-Stenographer	203.57
Clerk typist	198.57
Stenographer	193.57
Typist	188.57

Certainly the general run of wages for these groups engaged otherwise than by railways is well below these figures. The statistics on employment and earnings by industry taken from the Labour Gazette of August 1949 shows the average weekly earnings of nine leading industrial groups. Here again transportation workers are shown to be an elite class, the highest paid group in Canada. The argument is not that railway workers should have their wages reduced indiscriminately, but that office workers, and the many categories of employees who are hired by outside industry and commerce as well as by railways should not be paid at widely different rates for the same kind of work. Certainly no regulatory board like the Transport Board should take upon itself the responsibility of sanctioning railway rates that confirm unequal pay for equal work, nor should governments be so ready to support wage settlements of this character as they did in the threatened railway strike of July 1948.

Judge Archibald, Chief Commissioner, sounds a hopeful note in his majority report by declaring that the railways had not yet furnished evidence to show what portion, if any, of the increased costs through wage hoists were reasonable and proper. The roads have been warned by him that future applications for rate increases must indicate clearly that labor costs were fair, reasonable and necessary.

This is a subject very hard to bring out into the open. The brunt of opposition to the 21 per cent case fell chiefly on the seven provinces. Dependent as all of them are upon votes, they are not the ones to pursue this course of reasoning. Urban newspapers also show an explainable timidity. Nevertheless, the public will feel that a wage schedule so obviously out of line in one respect ought to be completely overhauled. We trust this is the intention disclosed by Judge Archibald's warning.

Radio Give-Away Programs

There are few Guide readers who are not frequent listeners to American radio and who are not familiar with the give-away programs now in vogue. The rewards for answering questions which would not tax a 12-year-old mentality, or successfully completing some piece of tom-foolery in public have grown to incredible proportions. It is said that a sum not less than $185,000 is handed out weekly. A listening audience of 30 million is claimed by the perpetrators.

The Federal Communications Commission at Washington, which exercises [illegible]ontrol there is over American radio, has finally looked down on the broadcasting companies [illegible] the criminal code of that country, section [illegible] of which forbids "the broadcast of any lottery, gift enterprise, or similar scheme."

The reactions to this order are mixed. That portion of the public which believes it is possible to get something for nothing has expressed some resentment. Artists who have healthy comedy, music and drama to sell breathe a sigh of relief. Some of radio's most talented people have turned away from that medium with disgust at the sight of $10,000,000 worth of advertising going down that drain yearly, about half of it in prize money. Fred Allen, the comedian, who has led the fight against it is alleged to have greeted the news with "It's about time radio was taken away from the scavengers and given back to the entertainers."

Probably the station operators agree with the critics about the low intellectual and entertainment level of give-away shows, but they are the victims of a business that has grown up unchecked. Sponsors want mass listening and are willing to pay for it. The surest way of getting it seems to be offering something for nothing. Whatever their moral convictions may be about lotteries, they will not relinquish a profitable business without a fight. The A.B.C. chain has defiantly declared that no changes will be made in its programs as a result of the F.C.C. ruling. It is understood that this chain will ask the courts for an injunction setting it aside. Doubtless a full dress legal battle is in the making.

The Toronto Globe and Mail has this comment to make: "Other businesses besides radio have gone through phases of courting popularity by handouts. The film theatres had their 'bank nights.' The newspapers, too, went in for similar methods, especially in Britain, where everything from sets of Dickens to life-time annuities was offered by publishers seeking ever-larger circulation. Both the film and the press have cast off these practices and it may be that radio, left to itself, would in due time have abandoned the give-aways. But radio evidently does not want to grow up—at least not now and not in that way."